Fresh batch of US experts now in Zambo

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2002 ★ 48 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 34 ₱15

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BUSINESS / B1

GMA gives FVR another VIP role

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has given former President Fidel V. Ramos yet another important role in her administration—membership in her "exclusive" circle of advisers.

As members of the "Council of State," Ramos and three others handpicked by Ms Macapagal—

GMA/ A15

Malacañang media group monitoring Erap forces

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG convened on Wednesday a top-level "communication group" envisioned to assist security agencies in containing supposed plots to destabilize or overthrow the administration, a person close to President Macapagal-Arroyo told the INQUIRER.

The source said Eduardo Ermita, a former military and defense official who now serves as Ms Macapagal's adviser on the peace process, presided over the meeting. Among those in attendance were Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, Press Secretary Noel Cabrera and Press Undersecretary Manuel Sanchez, chief of the government's "information clearinghouse."

The group was allegedly given the latest intelligence report prepared early this week, which disclosed a supposed plan by supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada to launch a so-called "Edsa IV" to coincide with the first-year anniversary of People Power II.

The report, a copy of which was furnished the INQUIRER, named the

MALACAÑANG/ A15

Politics hurting El Shaddai

By Armand N. Nocum

CROWDS attending the prayer rallies of the El Shaddai charismatic movement are thinning out because of the involvement of its founder Mike Velarde in politics, according to a spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

"The movement has been affected. They noticed a change in the numbers, so they are reassessing" their position, Msgr. Hernando Coronel yesterday said.

The group meets at the grounds of the Philippine International Convention Center on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City every Saturday.

Coronel said followers of Velarde were leaving him due to his past political dealings with

POLITICS/ A15

Bishops: Beware of 'Edsa IV' groups

A CONVERGENCE of smiles of Edsa II's key players, President Macapagal and former Presidents Cory Aquino and Fidel Ramos meet at the reception line before the state dinner for Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

EDWIN BACASMAS

'Military junta more dangerous'

By Armand N. Nocum and Carlito Pablo

BE wary and discerning of the "real motives" of those calling for a coup or another people power uprising to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

This was the warning aired yesterday by Msgr. Hernando Coronel, spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), who said the Catholic Church "remains vigilant, especially nowadays when there are destabilizing forces."

"We ask for the real and true form of people power to surface," Coronel said, and urged the faithful to "preserve the gains of Edsa I and II."

Speaking to reporters after a Mass said by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin for the birth centenary of Blessed Josemaria Escriva, founder of the Opus Dei, Coronel conceded that there were "high expectations" for the administration.

But "just because the present government cannot do its part, it does not have to be replaced by a military form," he said, and warned: "This would prove all the more dangerous for us."

Coronel said the people should watch out for groups calling for another uprising, including the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA).

"We don't know their real motives," he said. "We have to know

BISHOPS/ A15

ASEAN SWING

Koizumi's next stop: Kuala Lumpur

JAPANESE Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi yesterday left Manila for Kuala Lumpur to sell his proposal for a comprehensive economic alliance between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Top Philippine officials saw Koizumi off at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport where he boarded a special jet for Malaysia, the second leg of his Southeast Asian tour aimed at countering China's burgeoning influence in the region.

Koizumi on Thursday afternoon met with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in Putrajaya, Malaysia's new administrative capital south of Kuala Lumpur. They discussed a wide range of issues from closer economic cooperation to human development to counter-terrorism.

From Kuala Lumpur, Koizumi will travel to Bangkok for talks with Thai Premier Thaksin Shinawatra on Friday.

Koizumi will hold talks with Indonesia's President Megawati Sukarnoputri in Jakarta on Saturday and meet Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong on Sunday before returning to Tokyo on Jan. 15.

On Wednesday, Koizumi won President Macapagal-Arroyo's backing for his proposed Japan-Asean comprehensive economic alliance aimed at strengthening "economic links on broad issues."

The planned alliance may include a free trade accord, he said.

Koizumi, in the job for less than a year, said Ms Macapagal also expressed support for his efforts to restructure the Japanese economy and put it in shape to help drive forward the flagging economies in Southeast Asia.

KOIZUMI'S/ A15

Critics hit deal between gov't, Landing

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Donna S. Cueto

THE "INTERIM agreement" entered into between Malacañang and businessman Danding Cojuangco Jr. in San Miguel Corp. was rushed in time for the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, militant groups yesterday said.

The agreement provides that the government will not oppose the deal between Kirin Co. and the SMC management led by Cojuangco over the sale of 15 percent of SMC to the Japanese brewer for $540 million.

"In vain attempt to please PM Koizumi and Japan's corporate lords, President Macapagal-Arroyo honored the scandalous deal, fulfilled her promise to Danding and gained big for herself," the Pamalakaya, a fisherfolk group, said.

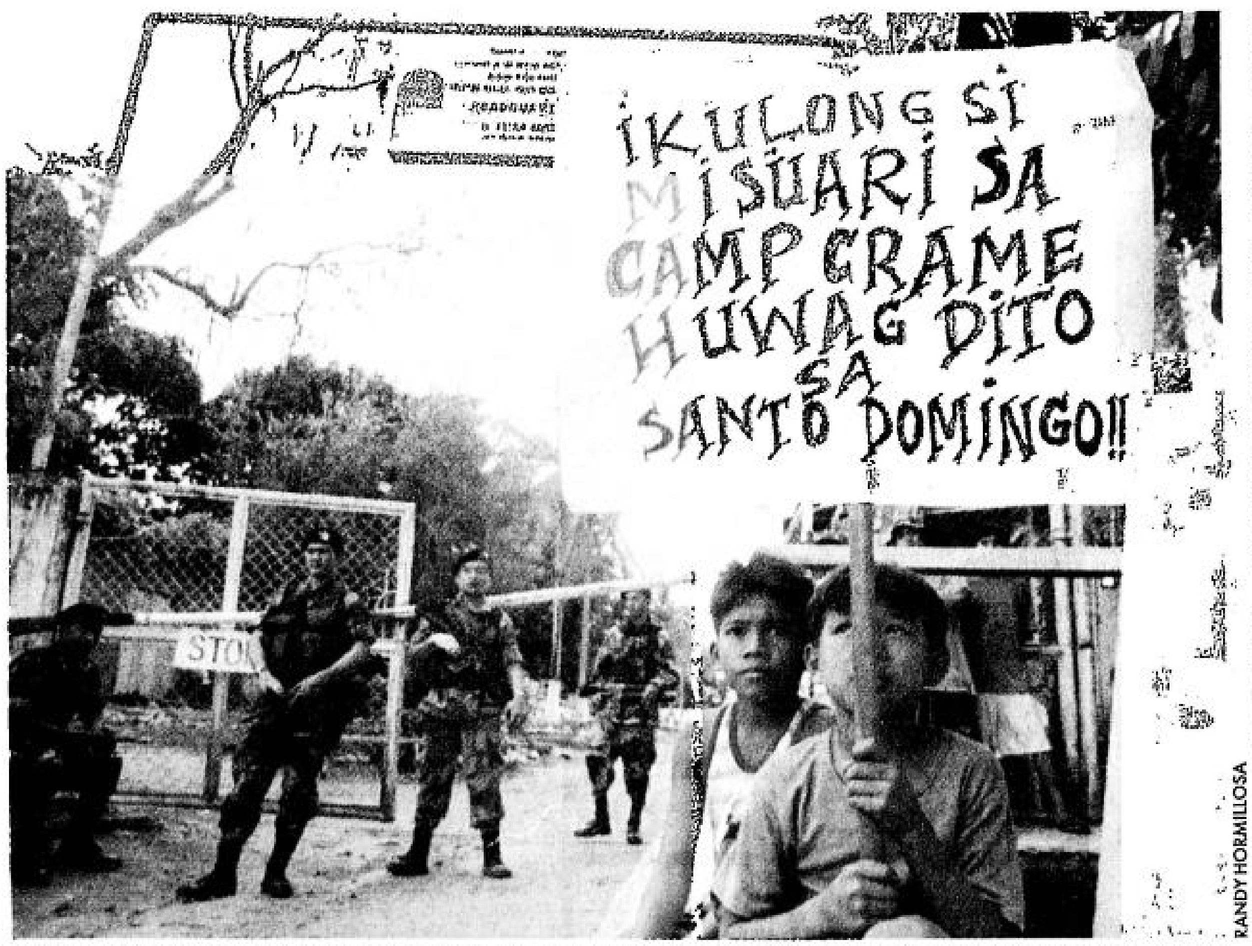
Malacañang announced the interim agreement on Thursday, the day Koizumi visited Manila.

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez said he would seek the deal's nullification before the Supreme Court if he found the terms "unacceptable" and contrary to the government's interest.

He dared the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to reveal details of the "interim agreement."

CRITICS/ A5

Metro Muslims backing Misuari


IKULONG SI MISUARI SA CAMP CRAME HUWAG DITO SA SANTO DOMINGO!!
STOP

RANDY HORMILLOSA

FEARFUL that Misuari's detention in Fort Sto. Domingo in Santa Rosa, Laguna, could disturb the peace, residents want him out. The municipal council has also passed a resolution against holding Misuari's trial there.

By Fe Zamora, Michael Ubac and TJ Burgonio

AN UMBRELLA group of several moderate Muslim organizations is planning a series of actions to help "elevate the Misuari issue beyond his detention and alleged rebellion charges."

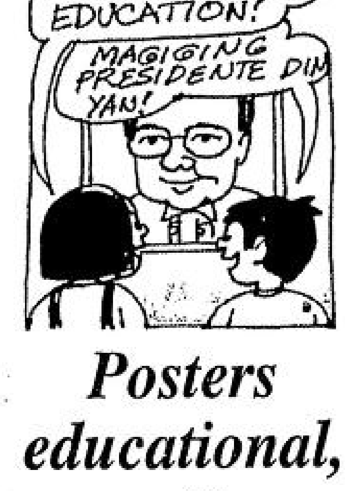
The Maradeka expressed apprehension yesterday over the "growing sense of injustice" brought about by the continued "suppression" of Nur Misuari's right to be heard and that this could "radicalize" their group, particularly the Muslim student organizations in the cities of Manila, Zamboanga, Davao, General Santos and even Cebu.

On the same day, a Bangsamoro civil society assembly urged the government to allow Misuari a chance to "speak and be heard" so that Filipino Muslims would "understand the issues" surrounding his detention.

The groups met in Quiapo on Thursday after one of its leaders, Datu Hajj Ansari Alonto, visited Misuari in his detention in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

"We ask President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to show Misuari

METRO/ A5


YAN ANG SECRETARY OF EDUCATION!
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Posters educational, says Roco

By Donna S. Cueto

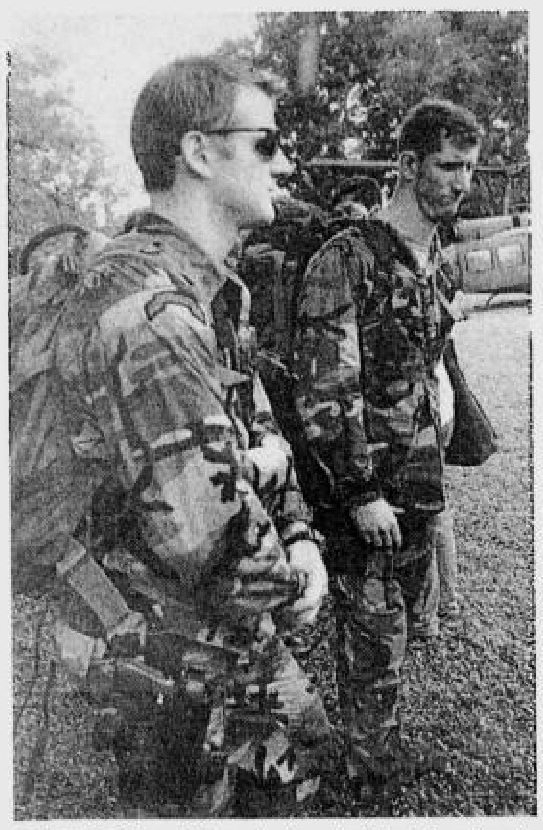
IN CASE public school students don't know who the incumbent secretary of education is, now they will for sure.

Those controversial posters of Education Secretary Raul S. Roco are not campaign materials but are a part of the information drive of the Department of Education (DepEd) to let the public

POSTERS/ A15

MAKATULONG SANA SILA.

Fresh batch of US experts now in Zambo



AMERICAN soldiers in the first batch of anti-terrorism experts who arrived in October.

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A fresh batch of US military counter-terrorism experts arrived here Thursday to advise Filipino troops fighting the Abu Sayyaf terror group, a military spokesperson said.

An Agence France Presse report, quoting Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, said the group of eight Americans arrived aboard a military plane at an airbase in this city and headed for the military's southern command headquarters.

The counter-terrorism experts are the second group to arrive following the arrival in December of eight US soldiers to install communications equipment.

The main group of more than 100 American soldiers is expected to arrive next month, Servando, Southcom spokesperson, said.

Yesterday's arrivals "are part of the trainers' group. They are now in conference with Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu and they will also be checking billeting facilities," Servando said. Cimatu is the Southcom commander.

AFP chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said this city has been chosen as the venue for the joint RP-US military exercise "Balikatan 2002."

Villanueva said the exercise under the Mutual Defense Treaty Training Exercise Plan is set for the first quarter of the year.

"While Balikatan's primary venue would be the southern Philippines, support facilities will also be set up in Mactan, Cebu, Manila and Clark," Villanueva said.

Villanueva said the MDT plan is still in its final stages as there are "things that we need to iron out, such as the constraints and guidelines that will govern the conduct of the exercise as a whole and the behavior of the individual participants."

He said the training of the Philippines' two Scout Rangers companies could be part of the joint RP-US military exercise.

The training will start in the third week of January, after the guidelines are approved by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Villanueva said.

Servando said the training center has been constructed in a 360-sq. m. lot in the Task Force Zamboanga compound in Barangay Malagutay here.

Six structures of four-door units each will serve as the sleeping quarters of 25 US military coordinators, Servando said.

"I have no idea about the sleeping quarters for the Filipinos soldiers," he added.

Officials said the US soldiers will be allowed to go to the battlefront to "assess" the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf, a small band of Islamic militants that continues to hold a US Christian missionary couple and a Filipino nurse hostage on nearby Basilan island.

The Abu Sayyaf has admitted links to Osama bin Laden, the primary target of America's war on international terrorism.

The three hostages are the last of dozens of captives seized by the Abu Sayyaf in a kidnapping spree last year.

The American troops, however, will "not take part in actual rescue operations," Servando said.

In Manila, armed forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said the US troops' advance party is studying "what training modules would be undertaken."

"The main body of trainers will arrive in February. The main body I am talking about is 100-plus (strong) who plan to conduct training with our battalions," Adan said.

"They are here to train, advise. That is the mission," he stressed.

The training program has been dubbed "Balance Piston" and will include jungle warfare and survival techniques, Servando said.

The US government has earmarked $70.2 million in military aid to the Philippines this year, up by more than three times the $22.1 million from 2001, the military said.

The Philippine military has announced it would take delivery of five UH-1H surplus helicopters from the US later this month.

Last year, the Army received 100 military trucks and a C-130 cargo transport plane as part of Washington's military assistance package to Manila.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, a staunch supporter of the US-led global war on terrorism, in November received a personal pledge from President George W. Bush that his government would help Manila crush the Abu Sayyaf.

US Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz earlier this week said Washington's next strategy after the campaign in Afghanistan would be to work with foreign governments fighting terrorism in their backyards.

Among the countries he mentioned were Somalia, Yemen, Indonesia and the Philippines. *AFP, Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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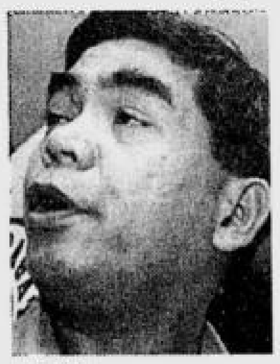
'Proxy war' cheaper for US–Adan



ADAN

THE MILITARY yesterday said that the US strategy of bringing in other nations in their war against terrorism was a "cheaper way" of fighting a war.

This observation was made by Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, the military spokesperson, on Wednesday as he talked about the Abu Sayyaf and the coming training sessions to be conducted by US military specialists.

"The strategy of the US, as you can see in their operation 'Enduring Freedom,' is to gather friendly nations to help them in the fight against terrorism," Adan said.

"Theoretically, it is a cheaper way of fighting a war because... they are helping these nations develop the capability, their own forces, to fight their own opponents and they will just provide their own equipment. In other words, we will do the job for them because it also addresses our interests, to get rid of these terrorists. So we are happy with that..." Adan said.

The visiting US forces, he added, would be coming over to train, assist and advise Filipino soldiers how to fight the war against terrorism.

At least a hundred US specialists are expected to arrive in February.

The training sessions would be held mainly in a camp, which is being put up in Zamboanga City.

In the same talk with newsmen, Adan said that the training would be part of the annual exercises between the US and the Philippines.

No fun being Nida slay prober

By TJ Burgonio

RETIRING police Director Thompson Lantion yesterday had some fun at the expense of Director Nestorio Gualberto at his retirement party at Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Lantion, after acknowledging the presence of Gualberto at the party, confirmed the suspicion that the latter had volunteered to serve the arrest warrant on Moro rebel leader Nur Misuari in Malaysia last Monday to make up for the bungled Nida Blanca murder probe.

"The PNP chief (Leandro Mendoza) called me up and told me to prepare a Learjet. He said, 'We're going to pick up Misuari' in Kota Kinabalu. And I told him: 'Sir, Gualberto has volunteered to serve the warrant on Misuari.'

"'Why?' the PNP chief asked, and I replied: 'He wants to make up,'" a laughing Lantion told his guests.

Turning to Gualberto, Lantion said, "Did we bungle the investigation into the Blanca case? We did, didn't we?"

Lantion's remarks elicited laughter from some of the guests but not Gualberto, who turned red and became serious at his table.

Lantion, head of the Directorate for Police Community Relations, turned 56 and retired yesterday. He was feted at a noon bash held at the multi-purpose hall of the Philippine National Police headquarters at Camp Crame.

PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza, Lantion's classmate at the Philippine Military Academy, headed the guest list, which included police officials and members of Lantion's family.

A police official, who asked not to be named, confirmed that Gualberto had indeed offered to serve the arrest warrant on Misuari.

Gualberto's request was initially granted but he was relegated to picking up the six followers of Misuari who were arrested with the Moro leader in Malaysia on Nov. 24.

It was Director Lucas Managuelod of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management and presidential adviser Jesus Dureza who picked up Misuari and an aide in Kota Kinabalu on Monday.

Pimentel blames media for playing up Senate coup

By Cynthia D. Balana

AFTER losing steam, the proponent of a Senate coup has abandoned the idea of a change in the upper chamber's leadership when sessions resume Monday.

Senate minority leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. acknowledged yesterday that Sen. Franklin Drilon's hold on the Senate presidency remained unchallenged.

But Pimentel blamed the media for playing up the Senate coup story the last few days when some majority bloc senators were reportedly set to move to the minority.

"This (Senate coup) is not an important issue," Pimentel said. "It acquired importance only because the mass media apparently did not have any better stories to tell in the last few days."

Pimentel, however, said the situation remains. A Senate revamp is still possible with one majority senator switching sides by next week.

At present, 13 senators make up the majority while the minority has 11 solons.

Drilon is serving one and a half years as Senate president after which Sen. Renato Cayetano will serve the remaining three-year term based on their "gentleman's agreement" in June last year.

Sen. Loren Legarda, who was among those reported to be planning to switch to the minority, said there will be no changes in the Senate leadership since no one is "jumping ship."

"I don't foresee any changes on Monday, just as I did not believe or even understood the rumors of the past weeks," Legarda said.

Legarda said a Senate reorganization at this time, when problems besetting the country abound, would be counter-productive.

She said such a move would not sit well with the public who want the government to act as one in addressing domestic economic and political problems.

"I don't have plans of moving (to the minority). And I was really surprised when I was mentioned as one of the disgruntled majority members because I am not disgruntled. I am happy with my job," the senator said.

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Unconfirmed Cabinet men told: Campaign for CA nod

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo told members of her Cabinet who were bypassed by the Commission on Appointments to press their "campaign" for their confirmation.

"I advised them to campaign among the CA members and explain their programs and qualifications. They must answer the issues raised by the CA," she said in a radio interview yesterday morning. The President has re-appointed all but two of the Cabinet members who were bypassed by the commission.

The bicameral body, however, has yet to receive the re-appointment papers of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

Malacañang has already transmitted the papers of other Cabinet secretaries who were bypassed during the last Congress session.

"(The President) will soon give their appointment papers to the CA," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said of the two Alvarezes.

"Probably the President wanted first to get their commitment they will try to reach out to the CA," he said.

But he also said that the delay in the transmittal could also be for purely "clerical" reasons.

"There could be a lot of reasons, (such as) a delay in the processing, in the typist. A clerk might not have been able to type the re-appointment papers," he said.

Tiglao also debunked the environment secretary's explanation for his surprise press conference in Malacañang the other day.

"I don't have anything to do with that because it's a Lakas operation. Probably this was approved by the President because she's the titular head of Lakas," he said.

Alvarez, the secretary general of Lakas, held a press conference on Tuesday to say that Lakas was still fully behind the President.

He claimed he held the press conference upon the request of unnamed Malacañang reporters.

He denied he was asked to do so by the President.

Rufus quits ambassadorship

By Carlito Pablo

FORMER Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez has resigned as Ambassador-designate to Germany after having been bypassed twice by the Commission on Appointments.

Rodriguez, a former lawyer of Sen. Luisa "Loi" Estrada, tendered his resignation in a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo dated Jan. 7, 2002.

"Out of delicadeza and to prevent any embarrassment on the appointing authority if I am not confirmed, may I request that I not be re-appointed to the said position," Rodriguez told President Macapagal.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Rodriguez's resignation was accepted by the President. Malacañang has yet to name his replacement.

Rodriguez thanked Ms. Macapagal for her trust and confidence in designating him as ambassador despite criticisms that he is associated with the family of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"I was even more honored when you defended me from the critics who opposed my appointment," Rodriguez told President Macapagal.

Rodriguez said he had "looked forward and prepared" for his assignment to Germany but noted that the commission had bypassed his appointment twice.

"I will always remember your act of kindness and grace in considering me for the ambassadorship," Rodriguez said.

Senate to probe pyramid scam

By C. Balana

THE SENATE committee on trade and commerce will look into the alleged pyramiding scam involving a Japanese firm, which has reportedly swindled many Filipinos, particularly teachers, retirees and housewives.

To be investigated is the G. Cosmos firm owned by Genta Ogami, a Japanese national, who was believed to have assumed control of Unitrust Bank before it collapsed.

"People, especially those looking for additional income in these hard times can easily be hoodwinked of their hard-earned money, especially when government was just too slow on pencil pushing on complaints against the pyramiding scheme," said Sen. Ralph Recto.

He said he was surprised why it took almost a year since a client first wrote and complained about Ogami's activities before the Securities and Exchange Commission went to secure information about the firm from Japan.

Accordingly, the government already held adverse information on G. Cosmos and Ogami's illegal activities and yet it allowed his group to assume control of the bank here.

What aggravated the situation, Recto said, was the fact that most of those who had been swindled by the pyramiding scheme were middle-and-low-income classes.

"The thousands of Filipinos swindled by the pyramiding scheme, of which the G. Cosmos is only one of too many, reveal the potential of small investors who could have otherwise put their money into small-denomination government savings and investment schemes," Recto said.

He expressed alarm over the failure of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Department of Finance to protect the interests of depositors of the Unitrust bank which new owners allied to Ogami had raided in less than three months.

Ogami's group reportedly got P18.25 million in DOSRI loans which was way beyond the allowed P12-million level.

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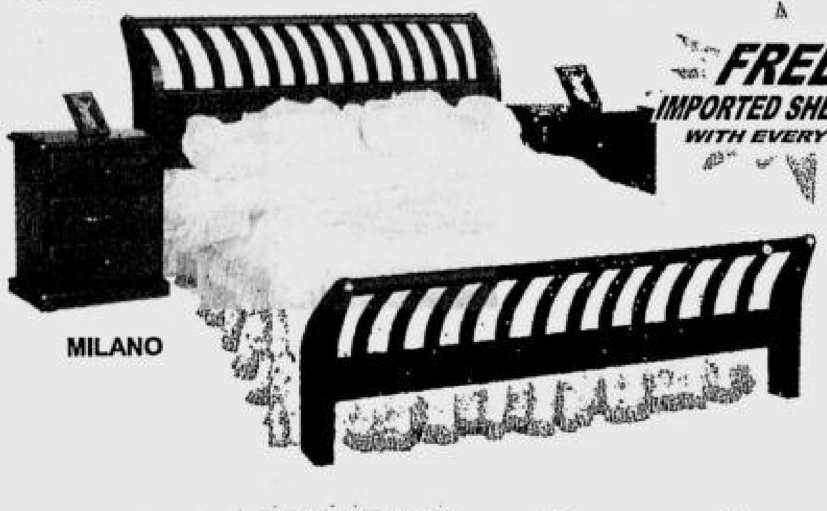

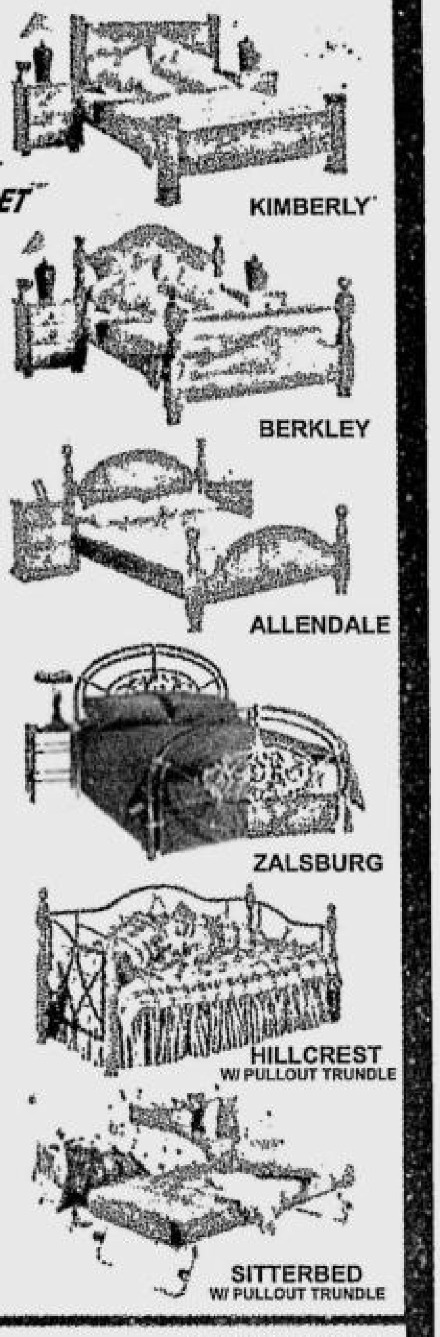

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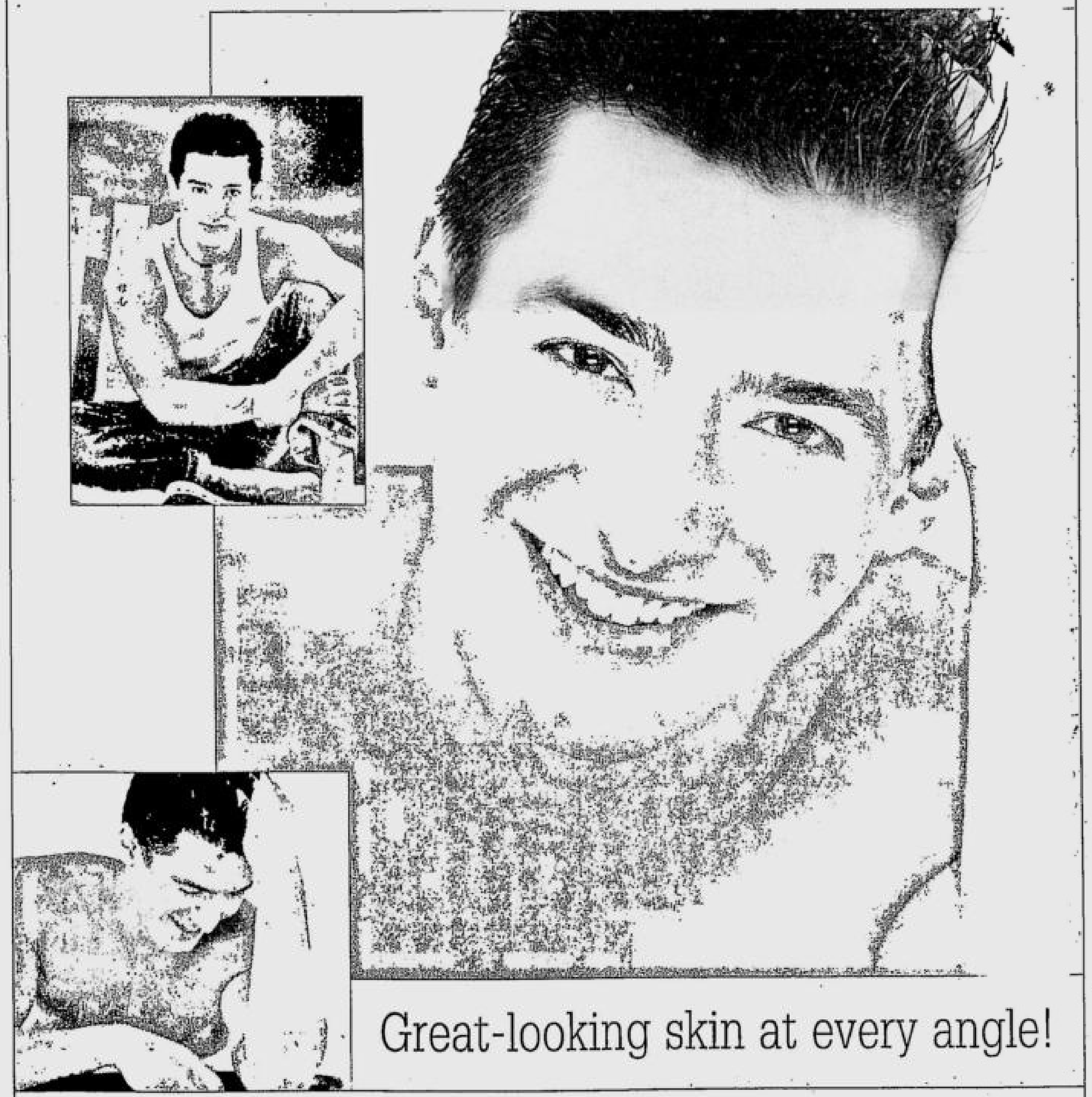

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The Secretariat, Judicial and Bar Council
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8 January 2002.

LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO
Clerk of Court
Ex Officio Secretary

Erap guards tighten up; Guia, JV visit delayed

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

EX-PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada and members of his family are now suffering the consequences of the lavish party he threw in detention during the holidays.

Former actress Guia Gomez and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, who make up one of the deposed chief executive's families outside marriage, were forced to take their lunch in the corridor outside Estrada's detention suite Wednesday, after guards refused them entry.

The new guards had replaced a more lenient security force that allowed the ousted president to hold a Christmas bash on Dec. 28.

Mother and son were only able to enter the suite at around 1:30 p.m. after they wrote a letter requesting entry to Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza, the INQUIRER learned from sources yesterday.

The intensified jail restrictions were apparently the offshoot of the Christmas party Estrada and his co-accused son, Jinggoy, threw during which the deposed leader gave a TV interview critical of the Macapagal administration.

Several days after the party, the head of the police team guarding Estrada, Chief Supt. Datulo Flores, was relieved of his duties, along with four other officers, reportedly for allowing the party and the "unauthorized interview."

Attended by about 50 guests, the party featured a raffle in which plane tickets to Hong Kong, TV sets, videodisc players, refrigerators and washing machines were given away. There was even a mahjong game with several Chinese-Filipino friends that lasted till the wee hours of the morning, reports said.

One source said Gomez and JV, accompanied by eight supporters, showed up at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center at around noon to visit the Estradas.

They were stopped in the corridor by an unidentified colonel who explained that only the Estradas' "immediate family and lawyers" could see them per the new instructions following the relief of Flores.

The two were advised to write a letter to Mendoza asking for permission to see Estrada. Mother and son complied by having one of Estrada's aides present compose the letter.

While waiting for a reply from Camp Crame, Gomez and Ejercito ate their lunch in the corridor outside the suite, from which tables and chairs were brought out for the group.

At around 1:30 p.m., the approval for them to see the Estradas finally came from Camp Crame via radio message, the source said.

Apart from a shortened list of authorized visitors, shorter visiting hours have also been imposed on the Estradas since the new guards took over.

'Old guards' face dismissal

THE CHIEF security officer and security escorts of indicted President Joseph Estrada, now being probed for allowing him to hold a lavish Christmas party and issue a scathing statement against the administration in his detention center, would be sacked if found guilty.

"If they're found to have violated regulations, they will be slapped with the maximum penalty, which is dismissal from service," Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, said yesterday.

Mendoza had earlier relieved and ordered the investigation of Chief Supt. Danilo Flores, former head of the PNP Security and Protection Office (PSPO), and at least two PSPO personnel for allegedly violating rules governing Estrada's detention.

As this developed, Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, chief of the PNP Headquarters Support Services (HSS), said he planned to reshuffle Estrada's escorts every week to avoid a repeat of the incident.

He added that he would also impose strict visiting hours for Estrada's immediate family and legal counsels, saying that this would take effect from 8:30 to 11:30 in the morning and from 2 to 5 in the afternoon.

There had been reports that some of Estrada's visitors had been allowed to stay inside his detention center at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City well past midnight prior to the incident.

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Scrapping of levy on gensets urged

THE PROPOSED levy on electric power generators is unjust and only adds undue burden on owners of electric power generators who have invested good money to ensure continuous and reliable electric power for their own use.

Because of this, former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said, the levy, which is contained in the implementing rules and regulations of the power reform act, should be scrapped.

Enrile made the proposal to the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC) which is tasked with harmonizing the implementing rules and regulations of the controversial power reform bill, now called the Energy Industry Rehabilitation Act (EIRA).

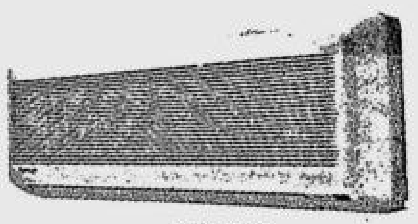
He said owners of power generators like hospitals, schools, hotels, restaurants, tourist resorts, farmers, fishing entrepreneurs and media companies should not be burdened by this levy.

He explained that the controversial IRR on electric generators states that: "there shall be a universal charge to be determined, fixed and approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) that will be imposed on all electricity end-users including self-generation entities."

This universal levy is currently estimated at P0.40 to P0.50 per kilowatt-hour, Enrile said.

Enrile said the universal levy, which is intended to partly pay for stranded costs of the National Power Corp. and other power distribution utilities, should be charged only on power and services provided through the grid, both transmission and distribution.

"Self-generators of electricity are not providing any service or supply to the grid and the public. Why should we impose operating, technical and financial standards on them?" Enrile said.



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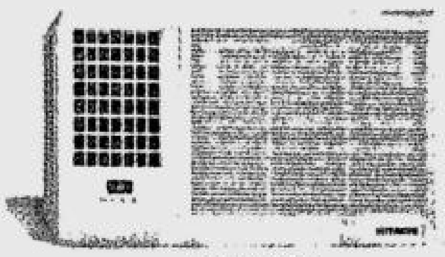

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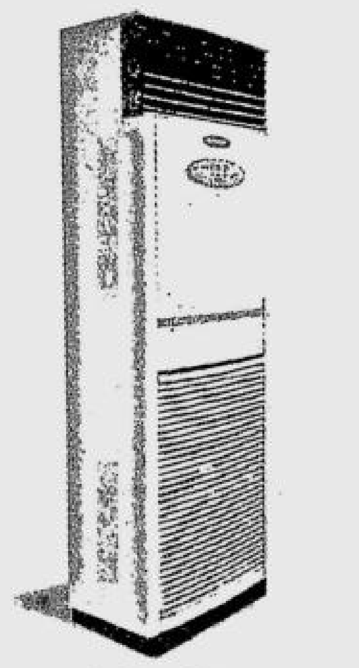

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, January 11, 2002
Week After Epiphany

1st Reading: 1 Jn 5:5-13
Gospel: Lk 5:12-16

One day in another town, a man came to Jesus covered with leprosy. On seeing him he bowed down to the ground, and said, "Lord, if you want to, you can make me clean."

Stretching out his hand, Jesus touched the man and said, "Yes, I want it. Be clean." In an instant the leprosy left him. Then Jesus instructed him, "Tell this to no one. But go and show yourself to the priest. Make an offering for your healing, as Moses prescribed; that should be a proof to the people."

But the news about Jesus spread all the more, and large crowds came to him to listen and be healed of their sickness. As for Jesus, he would often withdraw to solitary places and pray.

Commentary

To appreciate what Jesus is doing here, remember the fear and horror of leprosy in the time of Jesus when it was an incurable, contagious disease, a passport to separation from loved ones and exclusion from society. Yet Jesus touches the leper. He heals lovingly and personally, yet discreetly, quietly, not drawing attention to himself. Constantly, he goes aside to pray, returning to his source and center, rekindling his longing to bring us also to that center, that we might share his relationship of intimate, loving union with the Father.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Action for ejectment—It is settled that a person who occupies a land of another at the latter's tolerance or permission, without any contract between them, is necessarily bound by an implied promise that he will vacate upon demand, failing which, a summary action for ejection is proper remedy against him. In ejection cases, the sole question for resolution is the physical or material possession (*possession de facto*) of the property in question and neither a claim of juridical possession (*possession de jure*) not an averment of ownership by the defendant can outrightly deprive the court from taking due cognizance of the case. So that, even if the question of ownership is raised in the pleadings, as in this case, the court may pass upon such issue but only to determine the question of possession especially if the former is inseparably linked with the latter. Thus, all that the trial court may do is to make an initial determination of who is the owner of the property so that it can resolve who is entitled to its possession absent other evidence to resolve the latter. But such determination of ownership is not clothed with finality. Neither will it affect ownership of the property nor constitute a binding and conclusive adjudication on the merits with respect to the issue of ownership. Such judgment shall not bar an action between the same parties respecting title to the land or building, nor shall it be held conclusive of the facts therein found in the case between the same parties upon a different cause of action not involving possession. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Spouses Pengson v. Ocampo Jr., G.R. No. 131968, June 29, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Metro Muslims backing Misuari

(From page A1)

on television, give him a chance to speak and be heard because the Bangsa Moro people also want to hear his side," Nash Pangandapun, secretary general of Maradeka, told INQ7.net.

He said Maradeka, which means freedom, "is a moderate group and advocate of peace and human rights in Mindanao."

Pangandapun said many Muslim Filipinos also wanted to know "if Misuari is physically OK," but the media ban on Misuari "is keeping the Bangsamoro people in the dark."

But the Department of Justice (DOJ) has already turned down Misuari's own wish to have free access to the media "on a regulated basis in order to let the people know the truth about my case."

Misuari's other wishes are to have a laptop computer, tents for his visitors, a complete medical checkup at the Makati Medical Center and that this trial be held in his home turf in Jolo, Sulu, where rebellion charges had been filed against him and 17 others at Branch 3 of the Regional Trial Court of Sulu.

Misuari is charged with ordering an attack on military outposts in Jolo last November that left about 100 people dead.

"He should understand now that he is a prisoner facing rebellion charges. He's no longer the governor of the ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao)," Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said during a press briefing where he also said "no" to all of Misuari's wishes.

"He had already been subjected to a physical examination before he left Malaysia and it was done by Malaysian and Filipino doctors. We don't see the need for further physical examination," Perez said.

Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza also rejected Misuari's requests saying that a laptop, for instance, is not "part of the personal conveniences that he should have while in detention."

SC to decide media access

But with respect to Misuari's wish to be interviewed by the media, Perez deferred to the Supreme Court.

"That is within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and it is not up to us to grant the petition. If he is already a convicted felon, the permission could be granted by the DOJ. Before conviction, the jurisdiction belongs to the court," Perez said.

But Perez made clear he would vigorously oppose Misuari's petition for his trial to be held in Jolo. Perez petitioned the high court on Monday for a transfer of the trial venue due to the potential security risks posed by the armed supporters of the former ARMM governor.

In Jolo, a group calling itself "Concerned Filipino Citizens of Sulu" is leading a signature campaign to petition the high court to retain Jolo as venue for the hearing and preliminary investigation of Misuari's case.

Lawyer Ulka Ulama, spokesperson for the group, said that if the trial is held elsewhere "it is as if the government cannot trust us to do the right thing."

Why Erap?

"If they allowed former President Estrada a chance to be interviewed on radio and television, why can't they give this to Misuari?" Pangandapun said, adding that the Maradeka's official stand is to support legal battle and launch an information campaign to "tackle the real issues behind Misuari's arrest and start this with having Misuari explain his side on television."

"The issue here is not about whether Misuari is guilty or not, or whether his followers will raise arms or not. The bigger issue here is the 1996 peace accord," Pangandapun also said.

He said the government "has no moral ascendancy to enter into another peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) if it could not even implement the peace accord it signed with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)."

"GMA is creating more enemies than friends in Mindanao. She is fomenting divisions within the Bangsamoro people instead of making friends among the Bangsamoro people," Pangandapun added.

He also accused the government of "putting Misuari in a bad light" for alleged corruption at the ARMM. "But Misuari has not even been charged before the Ombudsman."

MISUARI

Luzon's Mindanao problem

The meeting was held in a restaurant in Quiapo and was attended by Ustadz Isa Usman of the Supreme Council of Ulama in the Philippines, Isak Racman of the National Aggrupation of Muslim Students, Mohammad Matarul of the Lupa Sug Muslim Students League, and members from Task Force Mindanao, Organization of Maguindanaon and Iranon and the Basilan Solidarity Group.

Pangandapun said Maradeka sympathizes with the fear of the residents of Santa Rosa that Misuari's presence could invite trouble to their community. "Misuari's presence there will also drive investors away from the Laguna industrial parts and the Calabarzon area. So now, the government has successfully transported the Mindanao problem to Luzon," he said.

PNP, Palace belittle reports

But the PNP chief belittled reports that Misuari's followers are in town and plan to stage bombings to protest their leader's arrest and detention.

"There's no confirmation yet. There are intelligence reports but these are raw. I think these are just psy-war tactics. If they are really here, that's easy to detect," Mendoza said.

He also claimed that the PNP was on constant touch with Muslim leaders in the metropolis.

Malacañang also downplayed threats by Misuari's followers to make trouble if their leader is not released from jail.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told Misuari's followers to help him instead prepare for his legal defense.

"We'd like to appeal to them. Mr. Misuari will have his day in court. He seems to have a topnotch New York-based lawyer. He's being treated well. He's not being persecuted," Tiglao said.

"If those groups think that Mr. Misuari should be freed, they should just contribute to his legal fund," he added.

Misuari reportedly wrote the President about his five demands. Tiglao could not confirm whether the President has received such letter.

He said they would not allow the media to interview Misuari because this will violate his human rights.

He said human rights groups oppose media shots of arrested criminal suspects.

"The (media) has to respect the dignity of arrested people," he said.

Malacañang also tried to assure Sta. Rosa residents that the police would not allow Misuari's forces to disturb the peace.

"There shouldn't be any concern at all to the residents of Sta. Rosa. We'd like to assure them that the police is very much in control. There won't be any trouble owing to the fact that Mr. Misuari is in Sta. Rosa," he said.

Tiglao also denied the claim of Misuari's lawyer that the government did not serve any warrant, thereby making his arrest illegal.

Tiglao said the government fulfilled the legal protocol for his turnover by Malaysian authorities.

"That's the reason Malaysian authorities turned him over. All the protocol for the legal turnover had been undertaken," he said.

Misuari had complained that his detention was illegal because he had not been served an arrest warrant. Writing the Supreme Court on Wednesday, Misuari said he was never informed "by the service of a subpoena, or copy of a complaint or information, or warrant of arrest issued by a competent court" of the charges filed against him.

No arrest warrant

But Director Lucas Managuelod, head of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, admitted that he had not served the arrest warrant on Misuari when he and a Filipino contingent picked him up in Malaysia last Monday.

"We just told him that we have a warrant for his arrest," Managuelod recalled. He had the warrant reportedly received by Misuari only last Wednesday. ***With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Noralyn Mustafa and Alexander M. Young, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Critics hit deal between gov't, Danding

(From page A1)

"If they reveal the details only after the finalization of the deal, it might be too late," he said.

A group of coconut farmers said the government should not have entered into any power-sharing deal with Cojuangco either in SMC or the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB).

Under the "interim agreement," the five nominees of deposed President Joseph Estrada to the SMC board of directors will yield to Ms Macapagal's nominees.

In exchange, the government will allow Cojuangco to run the SMC although the government will have a say in the operations of SMC and its subsidiaries like bidding and salaries of top executives.

The Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR) said the government, through its seven seats in the SMC board, should not allow the Cojuangco group's eight representatives to control the board.

"The government should protect the interest of the small coconut farmers in SMC by securing not only the 27-percent coco levy shares but also the 20 percent that Cojuangco is claiming which we believed was derived from the coco levy funds," said Joey Faustino, COIR executive director.

"The 20 percent came from the coco levy funds so there should be no Danding Cojuangco bloc to speak of," he added.

The PCGG has sequestered the 27-percent stake in SMC acquired using coconut levy funds and is claiming that Cojaungco's 20-percent equity in the company was also acquired using the coco levy funds.

For its part, the National Council of Small Coconut Farmers Organizations (NCSCFO) said Cojuangco had demonstrated dominion over SMC when he allowed the government to install its nominees to the 15-member board.

The NCSCFO urged Ms Macapagal to uphold the Supreme Court ruling that the coconut levies were "prima facie (apparently) public funds."

"Danding Cojuangco appears to be undeterred by the Supreme Court ruling. It is very ironic that he even takes command of the UCPB board by insisting the selection of his representatives," NCSCFO spokesperson Jojo Labay said.

Labay, secretary general of the Aniban ng mga Manggagawa at Magsasaka sa Niyugan, said Cojuangco should not have any say in the UCPB and even in the SMC in the wake of the Supreme Court ruling on the nature of the coco levy funds.

The high court's ruling has allowed the Macapagal administration to name its people to the UCPB board, replacing Estrada's nominees.

Labay said the Supreme Court decision took away the voting rights from Cojuangco and gave the government, through the PCGG, the power to nominate representatives to UCPB and other coco-levy funded companies.

Faustino warned that the Kirin deal would allow Cojuangco to "brew more than just beer and take control of other firms like the UCPB."

He urged the administration to pursue the litigation of the 16-year-old coco levy case involving the 27-percent shares in SMC pending before the Sandiganbayan.

But Efren Villaseñor, president of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Samahang Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan (PKSMMN) and director of the Philippine Coconut Authority, urged other farmers' groups not to inject politics in the SMC-Kirin deal.

"These investments are needed to boost investor confidence. They should not inject political intrigues in this issue since the next elections are a far two years away. Let's put a stop to all these speculations about 2004," Villaseñor said.

Villasenor said his group supported the Kirin deal and the "interim agreement" as long as the 27-percent stake in SMC was not affected.

Chavez said the agreement should be submitted to the Sandiganbayan for approval contrary to Malacañang's position that the PCGG's "go-ahead" was already enough.

"To me, that is a serious bypass of the Sandiganbayan's jurisdiction," he said, explaining that the disputed coco levy shares were sequestered and are in the court's custody.

Chavez wrote the PCGG a letter expressing concern about the interim agreement in connection with the Kirin deal. He gave the PCGG three days to give him a copy of the agreement.

He also wanted to know why the PCGG had dropped its initial objections to the Kirin deal.

When the Kirin deal was first announced by Cojuangco, the PCGG voiced "concerns" that this would dilute the government's 27-percent share. The PCGG also opposed a provision forcing Kirin to vote along with the Cojuangco bloc for five years as it could lead to Cojuangco gaining majority control of SMC.

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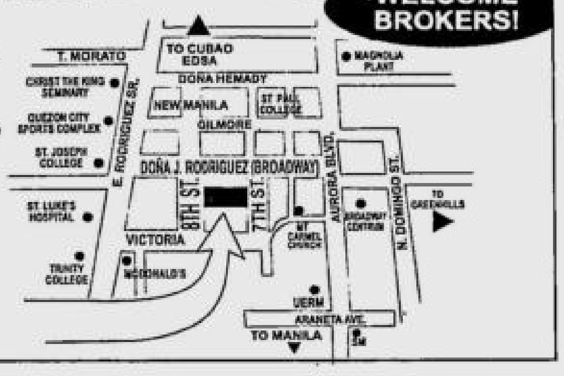

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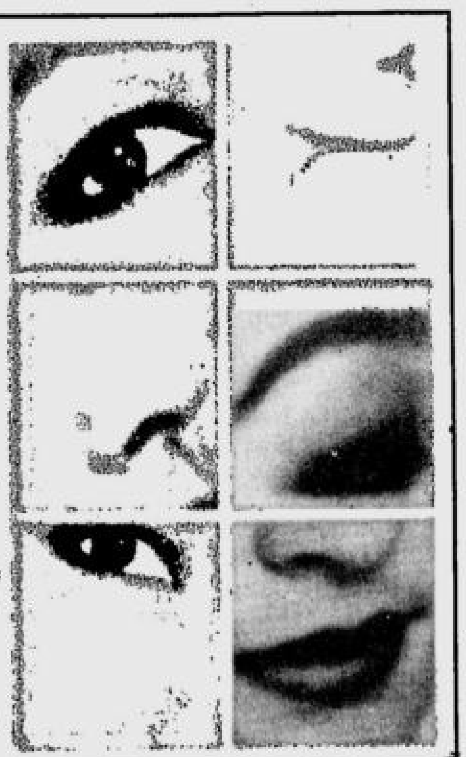

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 17 No. 34
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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EDITORIALS

Speaking of charges. . .

WITH NUR Misuari's detention and impending trial for rebellion, the attentive observer is moved to recall the Labor Day siege on Malacañang and wonder whatever resulted from the Macapagal administration's moves to go after the supposed instigators. Lest everyone forget, blood was also spilled in that siege that culminated nights of rage on the historic highway—rage stoked by startling, because incredibly incendiary, speeches that are safely (or should be) on tape.

It appears to be all quiet on that front. At least two of those for whom the administration then instituted a search—Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan (a fruitless search in their case)—have since been elected senators of the realm and, these days, are quick to air comments on human rights and possible violations thereof. One, Ernesto Maceda, has recently piqued public interest by virtue of his supposed posters announcing holiday greetings and inexplicably identifying him as Senate president. (An apparent sudden burst of exertion from one who, having been hauled to Camp Crame shortly after the May 1 attack on the Palace, invoked advanced age—66—diabetes and a heart ailment as reasons for his not engaging in "any stressful political adventurism.") Another, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, has been in and out of the public consciousness courtesy of appearances on national TV—irrefragable, larger than life—and fearless forecasts on the contenders for the 2004 polls. Even Ronald Lumbao, that pet haranguer of the Estrada administration, has been seen on TV still wearing that silly grin and dispensing his thoughts on something or other.

So what happened to that sorry episode that was eventually eclipsed from the headlines by the continuing series of scams and scandals plaguing life in these islands? If there were charges, were these filed against all the suspected instigators? If not, why not? And what is the status of these cases?

The answers are crucial to a proper appreciation of the administration's efforts to prosecute Misuari on the charge that he fomented a bloody, if short-lived, rebellion in an attempt to stop the election of a new governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. To be sure, prosecuting the renegade leader cannot but be a popular move given the black marks on his record (not to mention the unabashed anti-Moro sentiment long permeating this neck of the woods). But it would not do for this administration to be perceived as selective in its implementation of the law or engrossed only in political moves to buff its image (specifically in the eyes of the US government that is keen on dramatic changes in the Mindanao landscape). Then again, would it?

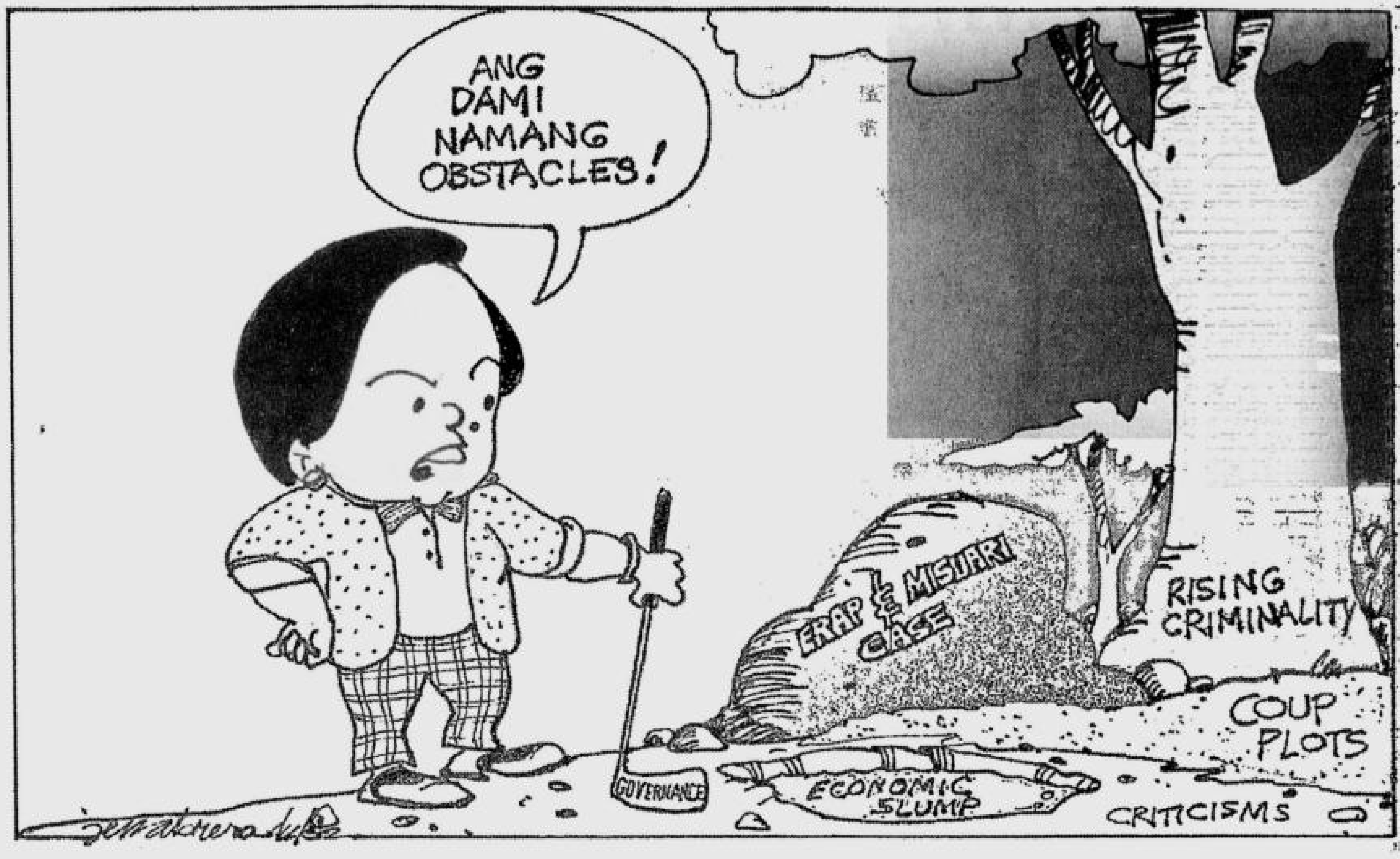
. . .And prisoners

IT'S clear that the Macapagal administration has learned a lesson or two from its experience with Joseph Estrada. Nur Misuari's transport from Kuala Lumpur and subsequent detention at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, was a streamlined operation entirely different from the bumbling, exasperating affair that characterized the arrest of the disgraced president. It shows that the administration can make the right moves when it puts its mind to it, thank The Force for small mercies.

Nevertheless, it remains to be seen what exactly it's going to do with the high-profile prisoner, who still counts on the support of certain forces in the Moro National Liberation Front and—not to be sneezed at—the Organization of the Islamic Conference. (The battery of lawyers taking up his defense also promises to be a headache, if nothing else.)

As it is, those other prisoners, Estrada and his son, are becoming more and more of a pain considering the impunity with which lavish parties and rumored mahjong binges had been held at their quarters. (Granted it was Christmas, but raffling off appliances and plane tickets? What do they think they are—government officials?) It's safe to assume that more of the same can be expected, given that the man has admitted to ennui apparently so consuming that he's thinking of coming to his trial for want of something to do. And to think that his esteemed lawyers tried to earn their keep by having him let off attendance.

With either prisoner—Misuari or Estrada—the administration is in for the curse of the Chinese sages: interesting times.



Nur being treated like garbage; nobody wants him

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

"NOT in our backyards!" cry the residents of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and Taguig, Rizal. No, they are not protesting the dumping of Metro Manila's garbage near their homes. Rather, they are protesting the detention of Nur Misuari and his seven aides in a military camp within their municipalities. Poor Misuari. The once powerful founder of the Moro National Liberation Front and governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is now being treated like garbage. Nobody wants him.

Malaysia, where he was arrested, doesn't want him. The Philippine government, against which he allegedly committed rebellion, doesn't want him. (The Macapagal regime brought him home only because Malaysia lost its patience and threatened to set him loose in a third country.) Sta. Rosa and Taguig don't want him. Zamboanga City doesn't want him. Only Misuari's wives want him.

But Misuari has to be tried in court. He is responsible for the deaths of more than 100 people during the uprising of his MNLF followers in Jolo, Sulu, in an attempt to prevent the recent elections for ARMM officials. When his forces were routed, Misuari abandoned them and fled in a pumpboat to Malaysia where he was finally arrested. Not a very commendable action for a leader.

Next to Misuari, former President Joseph Estrada and the coup plotters, the most dangerous people in our country are some lawyers. We have too many of them and now some of them are threatening to delay and derail Misuari's trial. Like vultures, they are flocking around the fallen MNLF leader for all the publicity they can get from lawyering for him. If he gets the same kind of defense lawyers that Erap has, Misuari's case will never be finished during President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's term nor that of her successors. Worse, if Misuari gets the same type of judges trying the Marcos ill-gotten wealth cases, or the same type of prosecutors as the prosecutors of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, he will never be convicted until he is too old for it to matter.

Crime does not pay? In the Philippines it does.

* * *

Don't forget that tomorrow, Saturday, the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) will offer for adoption seven lovable dogs rescued from the Marikina City Pound. They were stray dogs caught in Marikina which their irresponsible owners refuse to retrieve. If nobody adopts them, they will be put down by the Marikina government.

PAWS has selected the seven as having the potential to be good family dogs. Adult dogs adopted from shelters become very affectionate to their adoptive owners as if to pay them back for taking them into their homes. They may also be easier to train. The dog Eddie in the television series "Frazier," now earning a bundle as an animal actor, came from a shelter. Some dogs later trained as seeing-eye dogs, bomb and drug sniffers, and guard dogs came from shelters. I have friends, Vic and Rebecca Torres, living in a small farm in Sebastopol, California, who have two well-trained dogs, a German Shepherd and a Japanese Akita, that were adopted from an animal shelter. Dogs become more grateful than humans when you are kind to them.

If you are interested, go tomorrow to the PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center in Loyola Heights, behind Ateneo, right after the Katipunan-Aurora flyover going to Marikina. You may find a grateful and affectionate companion for life.

You will not be able to take home the dog of your choice on the same day. PAWS will have them spayed or neutered and give them vaccinations first. You can pick it up, or PAWS will have it delivered to your home, a week later.

Having dogs for pets, by the way, is a good way to keep fit. You are forced to walk for exercise when you take them out for walks once or twice a day.

* * *

Remember the multibillion-peso tax credit scam that this column reported last year? This is the scam perpetrated by a number of companies which, instead of paying taxes, were refunded amounts through "tax credit certificates." These certificates were then sold at a discount by the claimants to other companies which used them to pay their own taxes.

Get it? Instead of paying taxes, the claimants are refunded taxes they never paid. They then make money from the sales of the certificates to third parties, companies with large taxes due. The government loses thrice: (1) It doesn't get the taxes due from the claimant companies; (2) It refunds "taxes claimed" by the claimant companies; and (3) It doesn't get the taxes due from the third-party companies that bought the tax credit certificates that they used to pay their taxes due.

Two of the biggest buyers of these spurious tax credit certificates (TCCs) are oil companies. Shell bought P917.6 million worth of TCCs from 20 supposed exporting companies; Petron, ironically, a government corporation, bought P679.3 million from 11 companies. Together, they cheated the government of P1.5 billion in taxes.

The biggest seller of these TCCs is the Chingkoe Group of Companies. According to Department of Finance estimates, Faustino Chingkoe and his 30 or so companies defrauded the government of at least P2.5 billion in taxes.

The broker for the Chingkoe companies is supposed to be the A.F. Dizon Customs Brokerage Inc. In another scandalous ironic twist, the son of the owner of the brokerage company is named Reynaldo Dizon, who is being groomed by Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison to be the head of Task Force 156, the inter-agency body investigating the scam and tasked to prosecute the perpetrators. What a conflict of interest!

That column was written on Oct. 2, last year. Now comes the A.F. Dizon Customs Brokerage, three months later, with a brief statement that it "has not being dealing with a certain Faustino Chingkoe and his companies."

Why did it take such a long time to issue that statement?

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Guests at Monday's Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) forum are Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong, Housing Secretary Mike Defensor, and Mayors Feliciano Belmonte of Quezon City and Lito Atienza of Manila.

Subject: Housing and squatters.

Memories

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

COMPLETELY by accident, before I saw "Memories of a Forgotten War," I caught a documentary on the Arab world on BBC. It was done by a British woman of Arab descent, and it shows why Arab sentiment is so strongly against America. None of it has to do with sympathy for Osama bin Laden or for terrorism.

At one point, it shows a group of young Americans living in Palestine who indict their country's narrow views on the Arab world, views shared by many of their compatriots as a result of the American media's pervasive black-and-white depiction of the world. When she gets back to the United States, one of them says, she is not going to be quiet about what she has seen.

The documentary ends with these words from a Palestinian journalist, one who has lived as an exile in the United Arab Emirates since his youth, when he lost his home in Palestine to the Israeli occupation: "We feel your pain, America. Isn't it time you felt ours?"

Fortunately, the documentary was done by a Western journalist, albeit with Arab roots, and shown on BBC. Had it been done by an Arab local and shown on Al Jazeera, it would have been dismissed as propaganda and another case of anti-Americanism.

Shortly after that, I saw "Memories of a Forgotten War," a documentary on the Philippine-American War of 1899 made by Camilla Griggers and Sari Lluch Dalena. The documentary gives glimpses into the "first Vietnam," as other writers have called it, which was really what it was. It was during that occupation—"war" suggests a violent dispute between two roughly equal combatants, this was merely one powerful country deciding to seize a weak one for no other reason than that it wanted it—that the Unites States first used methods of pacification it would later apply to Vietnam. They included weapons of mass destruction, blurring lines between combatant and civilian, and a policy of attrition that bred atrocities. That campaign claimed the lives of 1.5 million Filipinos between1899 and 1913.

The authorship, or directorship, is not insignificant. Had the project been undertaken by a leftist personality or group and been meant largely for a radical audience, or a civil society one, it would have been dismissed as propaganda and another case of anti-Americanism. Long before the Sept. 11 attacks, it was not uncommon for Americans and even Filipinos to protest the "raking of the ashes of the past"—as one American put it to me many years ago—which recalling the turning of Samar into a howling wilderness among others presumably represented. And which I've never understood because nobody says the same thing about the American recollection of British atrocity during its own colonial period, which was particularly marked in the years before and after 1976, when America celebrated its 200 years of independence.

The fact that the documentary takes on a Filipino-American viewpoint does help to bolster the sentiment, explicitly put forward at the beginning of the documentary, that this is meant not just for a Filipino audience but also for an American one. Probably more the second than the first, the aim of its makers being to remove the veil from America's face—it is not only Taliban women that wear one—and make it see that its policy of benevolent assimilation wasn't so benevolent after all. It is meant, as the narrator, who looks at the events from the prism of her own personal circumstances, says, to allow her fellow Americans to see that shameful and painful past—as shameful for them as it was painful for the Filipinos—and hopefully learn from it.

But the viewpoint—"I am the child of both the colonizer and the colonized, the oppressor and the oppressed," as the narrator puts it at the beginning of the documentary—is an advantageous one in ways that go beyond its potential to make itself acceptable to an American audience as much as a Filipino one. It is advantageous in that it injects a personal element into the story. That in turn does more than merely add color or a "human interest" to the story, it says something vital about history.

Which is that, in the end, history itself is "just" a story, or narrative, not the past etched in stone but an experience whose power is unlocked by a storyteller or narrator. History itself is a living presence, not a collection of dates and events to mark the passage of time but something we live and relive, recall and recreate, retrieve and add on to. History itself is a perilous condition, not an experience recalled in tranquility but an ordeal we are all desperately trying to survive, or transcend.

I would have wished, though, that the personal element was more vigorously pursued throughout the documentary. Rather than confined to the merely tantalizing suggestion that what happened between the narrator's father (an American) and mother (a Filipino) parallels in many respects what happened to the American occupation of the Philippines. A story redolent of violence, lies and betrayal. It would have been fantastic if that personal angle had been pursued more doggedly. But that is probably another story, or documentary.

Some flaws aside, the effort is a wonderful one, and the results are generally edifying. The comments of interviewees in the credits part of the documentary, which show the extent of ignorance of that point in Philippine history by Americans and Filipinos alike—many do not even know that "war" took place at all—have made it eminently worth doing.

At the end of the documentary, the narrator would say that from fragments of memory, she has looked at the mirror of her country's past and seen her own face. That is how vital history is, that is how life-and-death history is. A plight in which we all have a personal stake; a gamble in which discovery, or redemption, is at stake. We hope that through documentaries such as this, we may find windows to our souls too, and see our faces as though for the first time.

We hope that through documentaries like this, we may also say: "We feel your pain, America. Isn't it time you felt ours, too?"

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

'The people are tired'

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

AS we approach the first anniversary of the removal from office of former President Joseph Estrada on Jan. 20, and the 16th anniversary of the February People Power Revolution, voices clamoring for another people-power driven movement to topple a sitting government have become more strident. This has been accompanied by the stepped-up tempo of coup plot rumors, reminding us that since 1986, mass action in the streets and military intervention have composed the two sides of the same coin of political leadership change.

Since 1986, we have had four governments, two of which took office on the back of people power (those of Presidents Corazon Aquino and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) and two by elections (Presidents Fidel V. Ramos and Estrada). This means that within 16 years, two of our presidents took power through the extra-electoral route.

This reflects the weak institutional basis of our elections as a method of transferring power. Even before President Macapagal could complete her first year in office, some of the groups which composed the drive to change Estrada are so disgruntled with the performance of the Macapagal administration that they now are proposing a change of government run by a civil-military junta.

It is in this context that Jaime Cardinal Sin has broken his silence and has issued a statement warning against the capricious invocation of people power as a mantra to change political leadership. Few contemporary Filipino leaders can claim more influence in mobilizing people power as an engine for leadership change than Sin. And so, when he counsels that the "people are tired," he means that we should put a stop to this endless agitation to rouse again the people to rush to the barricades and allow institutions and processes of orderly governance to take deeper root. He has deployed the influence and mass mobilization clout of the Church to install Ms Aquino and Ms Macapagal in power, but he senses the danger arising from the unbridled use of people power to change governments.

Like many citizens, Sin thinks the Macapagal administration's performance leaves much to be desired, but he does not take sides. The cardinal says: "Since May 2001, the government has not really been given a chance to do its task for the people undisturbed. There are persistent rumors of a coup d'état, agitation of the poor, the dragging court case against the former President and cases of drug trafficking that keep on hovering over the heads of high ranking people in government.

"We have seen one controversy after another taking up space in our dailies. The people are tired...Our current national situation is far from ideal. It needs a lot of improvement. The problem is not only in leadership. The problem is also ourselves. The problem is not in the starts but in our hearts." He then took the present administration to task for failing to focus on the problems of "two neglected sectors of our society—the poor and the youth."

The memory is still fresh that Edsa III, which sent mobs composed mainly of the poor, was a rebellion of the dispossessed who still form the constituency of demagogues like Estrada and some populist politicians.

Sin's appeal to allow institutions and orderly process to work departs from the radical advocacy of some groups who call for anti-democratic solutions to change the government, including a military coup or a civil military junta. The prospects of a coup, from a very realistic point of view, are remote, given that there are no compelling reasons for the armed forces to ditch the sitting government and move in to take power. As pointed out by Col. Victor Corpus, the intelligence chief of the armed forces, there are disgruntled officers in the military who continue to seek support for a coup, but the bulk of the armed forces and the chain of command require more compelling and serious reasons to make a move the way the officer corps withdrew support from the Estrada administration, causing its collapse.

The history of military intervention in this country shows that the armed forces have more respect for institutions and constitutional authority than impatient and messianic, if not do-gooding, civil society groups who believe they alone were responsible for the removal of Estrada and the installation of the Macapagal administration. In this belief, these outspoken groups have appointed themselves author of the tablets of good governance and to hold the mandate to withdraw support from an administration that has failed their capricious expectations, even though their support is built on thin air.

In 1986 and in 2001, the military always moved at the last hour to withdraw support from administrations under popular siege, indicating that withdrawal was a decision of last resort when a government can no longer function and rule effectively.

One self-appointed guardian of the public trust, the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA), which believes that it was mainly responsible for the ouster of Estrada, has set out two dangerous approaches to political change. The first is that the sitting President should be changed because she had sacrificed public interests to her ambition to be elected in 2004. The problem with this argument is that PCA does not identify presidential acts that gave preference to personal ambition over public interests. It can't go on making sweeping statements without citing proof, without insulting our intelligence. The other dangerous proposal calls for the replacement of the sitting regime with a civilian-military junta that could impose discipline, order and bring about integrity in the public service.

What this proposal seeks is not merely leadership change but a systemic change that does away with democracy. There is no assurance that a junta could bring about a more efficient and honest government. What's certain is that under military rule, no one can denounce corruption. It is wishful thinking for the PCA to expect a key role in a junta. A junta will have no patience with the PCA's carping nonsense. The PCA members' most likely place in a junta is a military detention center.

Why Filipinos are happy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

YESTERDAY'S column was titled "Happiness is power." Yes, it is power. Not just as a "saleable" trait for Filipina domestic workers whose cheerfulness is an unstated but sought for quality among foreign employers, but also as a personal bulwark against the vicissitudes of loneliness and alienation.

It is a power that can be harnessed not just for personal protection and morale boosting, but also for organizing and consciousness raising. And it is a power that is puzzling for, according to an article in The Economist, in Hong Kong at least it is wielded by those who should by all rights be the most miserable. (And the planned reduction in the minimum wage for domestics should make them all the more miserable.)

Why are the Filipinas of Hong Kong, majority of whom work as domestics under often harrowing conditions, so happy? The Economist wanted to find out why and sought answers from both the experts and the subjects themselves.

"The usual hypothesis puts it down to the unique ethnic and historical cocktail that is Philippine culture: Malay roots (warm, sensual, mystical) mixed with the Catholicism and fiesta spirit of the former Spanish colonizers, to which is added a dash of western flavor from the islands' days as an American colony. (UP Professor Felipe) de Leon, after a decade of researching, has concluded that Filipino culture is the most inclusive and open of all those he has studied. It is the opposite of the individualistic culture of the West, with its emphasis on privacy and personal fulfillment. It is also the opposite of certain collectivistic cultures, as one finds them in Confucian societies, that value hierarchy and 'face.'

* * *

"BY CONTRAST, Filipino culture is based on the notion of *kapwa*, a Tagalog word that roughly translates into 'shared being.' In essence, it means that most Filipinos, deep down, do not believe that their own existence is separable from that of the people around them. Everything, from pain to a snack or a joke, is there to be shared. 'The strongest social urge of the Filipino is to connect, to become one with people,' says De Leon. As a result, he believes, there is much less loneliness among them.

"It is a tall thesis," admits the writer, so for confirmation a little "field research" was done among the Filipinas who every Sunday turn Statue Square in Hong Kong into "a map of the Philippine archipelago." Here and in other gathering places, "Hong Kong's Filipinas...replicate their village communities, and these surrogate families form a first circle of shared being. Indeed, some of the new arrivals in Hong Kong already have aunts, nieces, former students, teachers, or neighbors who are there, and gossip from home spreads like wildfire."

* * *

"WHAT is most striking about Statue Square, however, is that the sharing is in no way confined to any dialect group," notes The Economist. "Filipinas who are total strangers move from one group to another—always welcomed, never rejected, never awkward. Indeed, even Indonesian maids (after Filipinas, the largest group of amahs), and Chinese or foreign passers-by who linger for even a moment are likely to be invited to share the snacks.

"The same sense of light-hearted intimacy extends to religion. Father Lim, for instance, is a Filipino priest in Hong Kong...His Sunday service in Tagalog at St Joseph's Church on Garden Road...is, by turns, stand-up comedy, rock concert and group therapy. And it is packed. For most of the hour, Father Lim squeezes through his flock with a microphone. 'Are you happy?' he asks the congregation. A hand snatches the mike from him. 'Yes, because I love God.' Amid wild applause, the mike finds its way to another amah. 'I'm so happy because I got my HK$3,670 this month [$470, the amahs' statutory wage]. But my employer was expecting a million and didn't get it. Now he's miserable.' The others hoot with laughter." This "intimate approach to faith," is one reason Father Lim believes there is virtually no drug abuse, suicide or depression among the domestics, "problems that are growing among the Chinese."

* * *

AN EVEN more concrete form of "sharing" are the money, goods and little luxuries, like t-shirts, toys, perfume and chocolates that the women send home regularly. Many of the DH's, says the writer, borrow to send home money to their families, "often with ruinous financial consequences."

Father Lim shares a story that is both amusing and appalling: "An eminent Filipino died while abroad, and it was decided that local compatriots should bid the coffin adieu before its journey home. So amahs showed up to file past it. When the coffin arrived in the Philippines and was reopened, the corpse was covered from head to toe with padded bras, platform shoes, Nike trainers, and the like, all neatly tagged with the correct addresses."

It is with good reason that the domestics have wholeheartedly adopted the concept that they are the *bagong bayani* or new heroes of the country. "*Bayani*" is also the root word for "*bayanihan*," the communal exercise of moving home that has become for us a symbol of national togetherness.

In "Bayanihan House," a center for Filipino workers in Hong Kong, the writer chances upon a beauty pageant where one of the contestants was asked how she overcame homesickness, and why she thought the people back home considered her a hero. "She looked down into her audience of amahs. 'We're heroes because we sacrifice for the ones we love. And homesickness is just a part of it. But we deal with it because we're together.' The room erupted with applause and agreement.

"'Nowadays, bayanihan really means togetherness,' says De Leon, and 'togetherness is happiness.' It might sound too obvious, almost banal, to point out—had not so many people across the world forgotten it."

That photo, that question

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN overloaded with unfinished work, I stop and catch my breath by uttering the biblical lament, "There is no rest for the wicked." Since Rizal Day, I have felt both restless and wicked in response to the phone calls and e-mail messages asking me to comment on the front-page INQUIRER story that asked, "Is Rizal's execution photo a still from a 1912 movie?" My answer is a quick and curt—NO! But the inquisitors are not satisfied with a monosyllabic reply and press me to explain further.

Historians who deal with primary sources or eyewitness accounts of famous events often realize that there are many angles, different points of view, of one and the same event. History is not as simple as the "facts" recycled every day in textbooks and million-peso game shows. Future historians will be comforted by the fact that they can carve out a lifetime career just focusing on issues like: "Where was the first cry of the Philippine Revolution of 1896—Balintawak or Pugad Lawin?" "Where was the first Mass in the Philippines held—Limasawa or Mazaua?" "Exactly how many islands are there in the Philippine archipelago both low tide and high tide?" "Who should be our national hero—Rizal or Bonifacio?"

Why add yet another controversy to Philippine history? Fortunately, the one raised by my friend Pio Andrade is a dud, easily settled. My only concern is that this reply does not get equal and prominent space, thus the lingering doubt inspired by the INQUIRER will remain for a time.

Mr. Andrade argues that the famous Rizal execution picture was a still for a 1912 movie because, "The earliest use of that picture that I found was in the last 1912 issue of the Free Press. Craig's Rizal book printed in 1913 also carried the picture. However, Retana's 'Vida y Escritos del Dr. Jose Rizal' published in 1907 does not have it. If that Rizal execution picture had already been released when the Americans came as Craig implied in his writing, Retana would have included it in his Rizal book."

Most collectors of Filipiniana will tell you that a detailed engraving based on the execution photo was first published in Murat Halstead's "The Story of the Philippines" in 1898. While there are post-1896 reenactments of the execution that show Rizal being shot, falling and dead on the ground, you can tell the authentic execution photograph from the fake by looking for the dog by the firing squad. A photo without the dog is probably the still from the movie or a reenactment. Also, I have seen a print of the execution photo in an album of Philippine scenes collated in 1897. Just because Retana did not use the photograph in his 1907 book does not mean it did not exist, the execution photograph is definitely from the period.

Mr. Andrade also argued that, "...The Luneta from 1886 to 1898 had no trees; whereas the execution picture shows many trees between the lampposts. Second...there was a file of stones encircling the Luneta at that time which is absent in the execution picture...Third, the lampposts in the execution picture were taller and lighter in color than the lampposts in the 1886 photograph. Being lighted by gas, the lampposts were short, and being made of iron, they should appear dark in picture..."

This all depends on which way you are looking. Mr. Andrade supplied two old Luneta photographs, one in 1896 showing an absence of trees and second, a painting of the Luneta made in the 1890s where the lampposts are shorter than those seen in the execution picture. Anyone who has gone over old pictures of the Luneta will note that there are small patches of greenery, shrubs and even trees between the gas lampposts that match the lamps in the photograph. These lamps, contrary to Mr. Andrade's assertions, are clearly painted white, not black. The pictures reproduced in the INQUIRER in support of the article, show the bay-side corner of the Luneta when the execution photograph was taken from another angle, toward the north and east of Luneta where you not only see large trees but the outline of the walls of Intramuros.

Contrary to popular belief, Rizal did not fall where the monument now stands but further down toward the corner of Roxas Boulevard and P. Burgos. Mr. Andrade cites a certain Werner Weinmann as his eyewitness source for the execution while Austin Craig and a committee of historians collated all the different accounts, including Weinmann's, before marking the exact spot where Rizal fell. This, unfortunately, is now marked by tacky Castrillo bronze figures.

Then there is the question of a derby hat that Rizal may or may not have worn. An interview with Rizal's grandniece revealed that before the war they kept the clothing Rizal wore to Bagumbayan. The relics consisted of a gray hat (not a derby, and not black) but then these were exhumed from the Paco Cemetery long after Rizal was dumped in the ground without a coffin. The relics were destroyed in the Battle for Manila in 1945, but then eyewitness accounts describe what Rizal wore. Surely that is more authoritative than half-decayed clothing.

So, is Rizal's execution photo a still from a 1912 movie? It is not.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

I was there

HIGH BLOOD

Feliciana Bayoneta

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

WHENEVER I see groups of people with grim faces, raised hands and fists, enduring the heat of the sun at Mendiola or anywhere; or people marching in the streets, carrying placards with hate-statements, I am reminded always that once I had been a member of the street parliaments seeking to oust then President Ferdinand Marcos who announced a snap election. Chino Roces chose Corazon Aquino for the presidency, and led the "One Million Signatures," for which I had two ID cards—one for "Cory's Crusader" signed by Cory herself, and the other for "Tagumpay ng Bayan" by Mayor Jun Simon, signed by Chair Cecilia Muñoz-Palma.

Meanwhile, I listened daily to my favorite dzEC announcer, Doy del Castillo, for being fearless in his comments about Marcos' doomed grasp on power. When I learned of Doy's hunger strike with Waldy Carbonell at the Ferguson Park, in front of the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard, I gave the team a bottle of gas, my contribution for lighting purpose on the team's first night at Ferguson Park which was later called Kalayaan Park.

My fervent dislike, for anyone posing as a dictator in the government, just like other rallyist, increased my admiration for Doy that moved me to write a short composition about him, while afternoon-watching three times a week with other sympathizers during the team's 43-day hunger strike.

D—Doy, we love your songs and wise comments
O—Over dzEC daily from 9 to 10
Y—Your problem-solving "Ngayon Din Po"
D—Deserves indulgence from our Lord above
E—Every night Mass is said that hope would spark
L—Languishing farmers from Luzon had marched
C—Converged in Ermita's now Kalayaan Park
A—Amongst good mediamen in hunger strike,
S—Stone-faced Ferdinand Edralin Marcos
T—Tucked in bullet-proofed security in his Malacañang prison
I—Installed with barbwire and water-cannon hoses
L—Lax Amendment 6, or any decree as bad
L—Lift martial law—an anti-democracy
O—On God's help Filipinos will be free.

On Dec. 11, 1985, I was one of those who waited at Times Street, Quezon City, in front of Cory Aquino's house. When Chino Roces and Sen. Lorenzo Tañada arrived, everyone rode in their own cars. I got a ride with members of a *masa* newspaper. The cars lined up on Quezon Boulevard in parade formation. Destination was the Commission on Elections building in Intramuros, Manila. There were newspapermen and photographers waiting and confetti started falling from windows of nearby buildings, as Cory walked through a crowd of people. Overwhelmed with excitement I joined the photographers and young men who were standing on top of tables beside Cory's table to have take a glimpse of Cory while she was signing the documents confirming her candidacy for the presidency. I felt just like them that moment.

At the Grand Rally of Cory's group at Frisco, Quezon City, I gave a greeting card shaped like a heart (corazon) to Cory for her birthday on Jan. 25, 1986; and a good-wish card to Doy Laurel, candidate for the vice-presidency. After a few weeks, I received a short note from Cory, dated Feb. 14, 1986, the contents of the note read as follows:

"Dear Mrs. Bayoneta,

"Thank you for remembering my birthday. I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and good wishes, and look forward to your continued support as we claim our victory for the Filipino people. Please continue to rally behind us and see what you can do, in your own sphere of influence, to stop Mr. Marcos from seeking and obtaining constitutional respectability for a flagrant electoral theft. Let us not allow a failing dictator to cheat us in one of the most shameful electoral frauds ever perpetuated against our people in the name of democracy. Together, we will not allow him to return us to slavery.

"Please pray that we may conclude that which we have already begun peacefully and determinedly so that the task of nation-building may begin a climate of amity, unity and peace.

"My warmest personal regards to you and your family.

"All the best, Cory"

After election day, the last days of counting the ballots for Cory and Marcos was held at the Annex Building, Batasan Hills Street, some meters away from the Batasang Pambansa on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. The counting was heard all over the annex compound through a loud speaker; an image of the Virgin Mary was being carried around; snack stands were everywhere; and people roamed here and there as if there was a fiesta.

There was also a long line of Marcos loyalists shouting "Marcos! Marcos!" facing closely a similar long line of Cory followers shouting "Cory! Cory!"

Inside the ground floor of the Annex Building were people, including mediamen with hands raised in the popular "L" for "Laban," continuously shouting "Marcos concede! Marcos concede!" while the counting of ballots was going on. I Joined the group and also shouted "Marcos concede! Marcos concede!"

My hope that Cory would win over Marcos was fulfilled the moment I heard from Radio Veritas that Marcos and his family were flown to Hawaii.

Since 1972, I have kept a used-mail stamp, for I like its beautiful design: a big bright heart almost covering the small map of the Philippines. When Cory became a candidate for the presidency, I tried to decipher the stamp's feature. The date and printed words tallied with Cory and Marcos. To me, the big red heart means Corazon (heart); 1972 means the date Marcos declared martial law, and the small Philippine map almost covered by the big red heart means that Cory would cover the Philippines as president.

The winning of Cory Aquino as the first woman president of the Philippines was through the force of the peaceful People Power Revolution led by Jaime Cardinal Sin on Feb. 22-25, 1986. And though it happened many years ago, I'm still proud to let the whole world know that I was once a part of the first People Power Revolution for which a shrine was built on Edsa.

Feliciana Bayoneta, 78, used to work as a stenographer for 31 years for the A. Soriano Corp.

THEY SAID

No purpose served

"We don't think that analyzing his words and dwelling on this serves any purpose."

—Israeli government spokesperson Arieh Meckel on Osama bin Laden's televised speech linking his attacks on the United States to Washington's ties with the Jewish state

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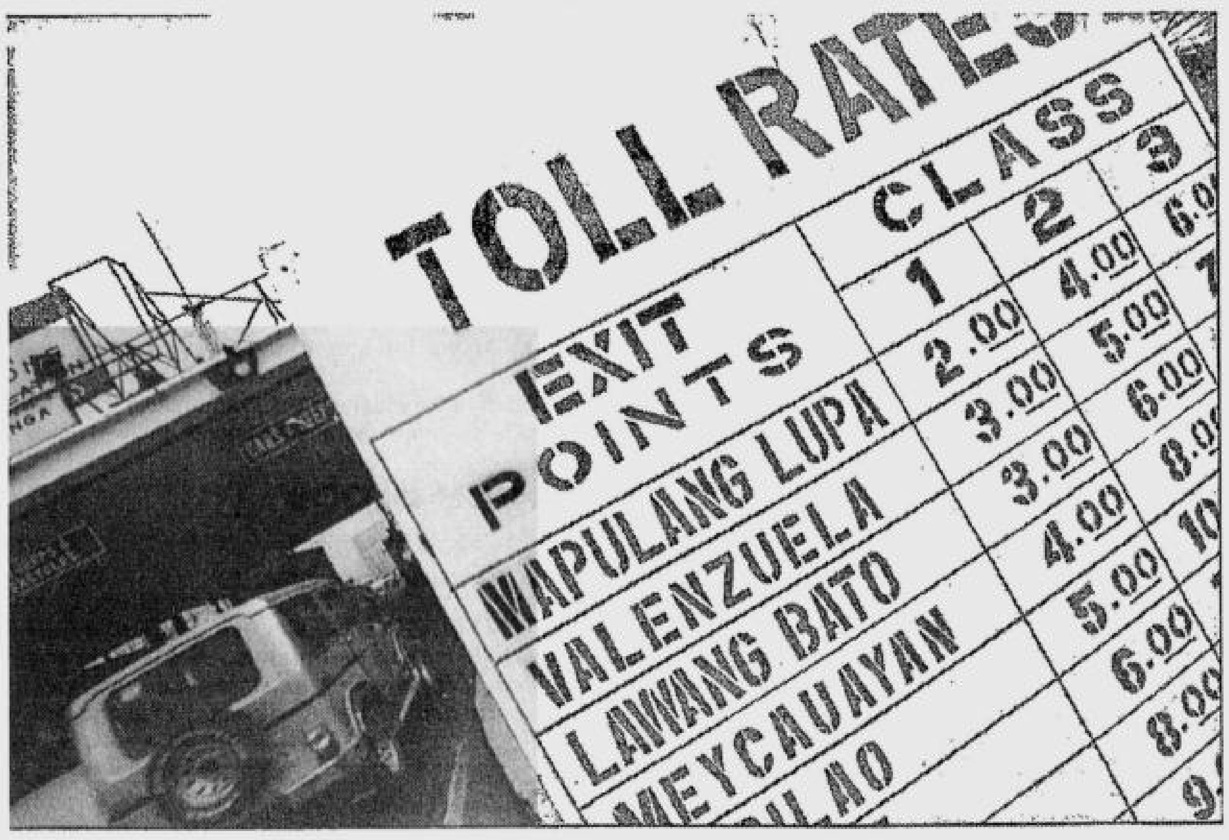

Toll plaza traffic, E-Pass failure

THE TOLL increase on Jan. 1, 2002 at the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) and the Skyway is something that we, the regular users of the SLEX and Skyway, to a certain extent, understand and accept. This is part and parcel of the premium we must pay to continuously enjoy a well-maintained, clean, orderly and world-class road system.

What we don't understand and find difficult to accept is why, after a series of toll increases in the past, the newly implemented toll increase this year and another set of toll increases is scheduled by mid-2002, Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. (CMMTC) and the Philippine Skyway Corp. (PSC) can't solve the more critical problems in the Skyway and SLEX.

A case in point is the toll collection system at the toll plazas where payment takes a considerable amount of time. Even with the implementation of the E-Pass system, which reportedly about 40,000 motorists and transport groups have availed themselves of, no sign of improvement in this aspect at the toll plazas can be seen.

On the contrary, the significant decrease in travel time from one toll plaza to the next has created the problem of long lines of vehicles exiting at toll plazas. This has become the main cause of traffic congestion along the SLEX and Skyway. These lines of vehicles tend to eat into the main lanes of the SLEX, thus creating a domino effect on the other vehicles by slowing them down. This problem also holds true at the Skyway where congestion at the toll plaza would extend beyond the Magallanes ramp.

My analysis is that the E-Pass system has not been properly and effectively implemented. Maybe because of the following reasons:

- The E-Pass tags are so prohibitively priced that only those who can afford it buy it.
- The 40,000 motorists who availed themselves of the E-Pass tags is a much smaller number than the projected E-Pass users to open up more "E-Pass Only" lanes at toll plazas, or most of them don't really use the SLEX or Skyway on a regular basis.
- The real and regular users of the SLEX and Skyway are not equipped with the E-Pass tags.
- E-Pass users don't use their tags anymore because they get stuck in traffic anyway, and have to endure the hassle of reloading.

My unsolicited advice to the CMMTC and the PSC so that they may solve this problem is to give away the E-Pass tags for free, but give them to the real and regular users of the Skyway and the SLEX.—**PAUL B. BAGATSING, 63 Angeles St., Alabang Hills Village, Alabang, Muntinlupa City**

Not strictly gun issues

REGARDING Conrado de Quiros' Jan. 4 column attacking my sanity, may I first say that, much as I would want to, I cannot debate the salient points of the gun control issue here for lack of space. Being a columnist, De Quiros has an unfair advantage. So may I call on De Quiros' sense of fair play to let me or the Peaceful, Responsible Owners of Guns, debate the issue in any forum any time where we have an equal chance to respond. I assure everyone that when we do so, we will behave like intelligent, mature and open-minded people, and we will not be armed. We expect the same courtesy from the gunless proponents.

Instead, I'll deal here with peripheral points in De Quiros' column. As one journalist to another, I hope he considers the following:

First, I am not the president but the vice president of Progun. De Quiros owes Progun president Johnmuel Mendoza an apology.

Second, my letter asked why the media were reporting the incidents in question as a blanket move by the government to arm civilians. Progun and I may support these initiatives, but the letter itself was never written as a pro-gun endorsement. In my letter I only gave symbolic support to Manila Councilor Julio Logarta's proposal and the Mindanao tribesmen, yet De Quiros took it as a sweeping statement of support. The premise for his reaction is therefore wrong, and so is his paraphrasing of my words.

For example, I never asked how the Department of Interior and Local Government's adding more civilian agents make the proposal wrong. Instead, I asked how the media construe it as "arming civilians." The issue here is deputization, a process provided for in the Rules of Court, quite separate from arming private citizens per se.

Third, no self-respecting journalist should ever comprehend why the media would "arraign" any issue bitterly. I refer here to straight news reporting, not opinion-page articles. The media's function is to report the news as objectively and accurately as possible. The media have no right determining what's wrong and right for the people, no matter how worthy the cause.

Fourth, De Quiros' describing me as having "gunpowder for brains," though only inferred, is uncalled for, slanderous, arrogant and unprofessional. It's personal and imputes a physical defect, while my remark about antigun beliefs and addler brains is general and impersonal. In fact, De Quiros isn't even mentioned in my letter, so why the personal slur?

Lastly, as a writer, De Quiros should have understood the metaphorical use of LSD as a brain-addler. Shabu is an amphetamine whose mind-altering effects usually come only after continued use, while LSD is primarily a fast-acting, mind-altering drug. Just half a capsule has been known to cause permanent insanity. So LSD is the better metaphor to use.

And if De Quiros thinks my misguided use of the word LSD shows how far back in the past I'm living, he should consider how far back he is when he depicted in his Jan. 2 column that Jose Rizal was executed in 1996 and the Philippine-American War began in 1999, or just five and two years ago, respectively. I may be living in the past, but at least I'm not off by more than a hundred years.—**MANNY MOLINA, vice president, Peaceful, Responsible Owners of Guns, 3rd Floor, PBD Bldg., 27 Don A. Roces Avenue, Quezon City 1103**

More ventilation on air issues

I DO not relish a media debate but I have to reply to Narzalina Lim's letter which was published last Dec. 12, 2001 because of her display of sheer arrogance.

Lim thinks that anybody who disagrees with her is either incompetent or an enemy of the state. Her emotional outburst would tend to show that there is an interest which is seriously threatened. For this reason I think she should be unmasked for whose interest she is working for. I have suspected all along that she is masquerading her "open skies" advocacy under the guise of protecting tourism.

The Air Panel does not exist to promote tourism alone. It also looks into the needs, concerns and requirements of the country's air carriers, develops its air services and air freight capabilities. I might add that the panel considers, too, the country's own vision to be the regional aviation hub. Ignoring the air carrier's interests in the air negotiation is simply unimaginable while other countries give high priority to them. But to Lim, all that matters is tourism and nothing else.

I have no quarrel with Lim when it comes to promoting tourism but I totally disagree with her position that the talks should only center on tourism. The airline industry is equally affected after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York which should be reason enough to help them. To say that tourism should be saved at all costs and never mind the interest of the airlines, to me does not make sense. The collapse of the airline industry, a sample of which we experienced not too long ago, could have far-reaching implications which will impact even on tourism.

Lim cited many facts to support her claim. I say these are distorted, inaccurate and misleading and here is why:

- The only one authorized to bind the government in an air agreement is the Air Panel. I, as an individual member or even as chair, could not substitute the collective decision of the panel even if I wanted to.
- Air negotiation is not a zero-sum game where a gain by the airline is a loss to tourism. The panel goes for a balanced approach, a win-win situation where all interests are taken into consideration.
- On the RP-Taiwan air row, let me say that Meco was the chair of the Philippine panel. My suggestion, if adopted by Meco, ceased to be my personal position. Besides, air agreements, like any other agreements, are not cast in stone and cannot be amended, repealed or even abrogated, if the circumstances otherwise require.
- Opening the skies is not an absolute guarantee that several more tourists will come and therefore could single-handedly solve the ailing tourism industry. Our existing air agreements provide for more than 12 million passenger seats a year but we can only get about 2 million tourists. These agreements would also allow more than 30 foreign air carriers to fly to Cebu and Davao but only about three have availed of these rights. Some airlines have even decided to reduce their flights to Manila.
- The airline industry is a multi-million-dollar industry. One aircraft costs a hundred million dollars. Its "manufactured goods" are perishable and nonrenewable in the sense that once the aircraft takes off, the empty seats and cargo space are lost forever. Indeed, several countries have recognized the industry's peculiar problem which prompted them to infuse huge financial subsidies after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Reckless giving away of excessive seats, mindless of the market situation gives rise to unfair competition and eventually to bankruptcy of the smaller airlines.
- Low fares are of course good for everybody but it is only a temporary benefit. It will be recalled that Singapore Airlines increased fares by over 100 percent as soon as it gained dominance on the Manila route after PAL's closure in 1998.

I assume that Lim and I have the interest of the country in mind and therefore I suggest that we fully ventilate these issues through an open debate in a neutral venue instead of adding another public controversy.—**FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN, undersecretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, 2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City**

LETTERS

Rectifying a historical misconception

THE FOLLOWING statement is intended only to correct a frequently peddled historical misconception, if not a deliberate falsehood, namely, that the Hukbalahap was founded by Luis M. Taruc. I quote the INQUIRER article, titled "Social Justice award awaits founder of Huks." (PDI, 11/27/01)

Here are the facts:

- The formation of a guerrilla resistance movement against the impending invasion by the Japanese-fascist-militarists, later to be named Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon (Hukbalahap) was conceived and planned way back in early 1941 (when the Pacific War and actual Japanese invasion seemed a certainty) by the Communist Party of the Philippines (the merged CPP and SPP, 1938)—almost a year before the actual invasion on Dec. 8, 1941.

The old Daily Globe in its editorial on April 2, 1992, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Hukbalahap said:

"...As everyone knows, no Filipino or American mounted a credible resistance against the fascist Japanese forces except the Communist Party of the Philippines." Further it noted: "Unfortunately, for the brave communists only in two countries, the Soviet Union and China, were they organized to take credit for what they did..." Meaning all other communist movements against fascism were ignored—thus Taruc is made to appear by the media as the founder of the Hukbalahap.

- Even before Dec. 8, 1941, when the Pacific War broke out, Taruc was no longer active in the communist movement.
- Based on the CPP directive to all its members on the need to organize guerrilla fighting units when the invasion takes place, various party organs and individuals formed anti-Japanese armed units, among them Casto Alejandrino, Eusebio Aquino, Poblete, Mariano Franco, et al. Taruc was not among them.
- Taruc rejoined the communist movement only later, for fear of his personal safety after leading comrades Lino Dizon, Felix Manabat, Crisanto Evangelista and Agapito del Rosario were arrested by the Japanese and subsequently executed. He was not and never was Huk Supremo.
- The CPP was the only entity, the only force that integrated and consolidated the guerrilla squadrons into the Hukbalahap on March 29, 1942.

We wish to categorically state that we are not interfering with the proposed award to be given Taruc by the Pampanga provincial government because that is its prerogative.

Our only concern is the rectification of historical myths generally accepted by an unknowing public.

We are deeply concerned with presenting the historical truths not only in this regard, but also with regard to the whole period of colonialism and neocolonialism.—**CASTO J. ALEJANDRINO, CESARIO Y. TORRES, MARIANO S. DE GUZMAN, ROSENDA R. TORRES, FELISA A. CUYUGAN, BEN FELEO, JESUS B. LAVA, Pondasyon sa Nasyonalismo at Demokrasya ng mga Beteranong Hukbalahap, 253 Malapantao, Mandaluyong City**

Not unlike De Gaulle or Churchill

RUMORS and speculations that former President Fidel V. Ramos is a candidate for president in 2004, should be encouraged until it becomes a reality. I like to believe that constitutional provisions regarding presidential terms of office should be interpreted by the Supreme Court in a manner suited to the country's needs and demands of public welfare.

President Charles de Gaulle of France was plucked from his retirement to lead his country once again out of the crisis that beset it while Prime Minister Winston Churchill of the United Kingdom willingly responded to the call of the British people during World War II to lead his country to glory.

Ramos is still physically strong and mentally alert. He can still lead our country to political stability and development, being a former military leader and president.

Like De Gaulle and Churchill, Ramos can make use of his experience and wisdom to lead our country to stability and economic recovery.—**RAMON L. BOISER, 143 Batulao Road, Central Park Subd., Bangkal, Davao City**

Kenyans prize female circumcision despite ban

FEATURE

David Mageria

KAPENGURIA, Kenya—Chepochepkor Komolion busily smears cow dung on the wall of her mud hut, complaining bitterly about a litany of problems.

Hunger, drought, scarcity of water, lack of hospitals and medicine and frequent cattle rustling raids that force her to abandon her home top the list.

Clearly, an increasingly intense debate in Kenya about female circumcision has escaped her list of worries.

"I have to take my children to be circumcised because this is what I got from my grandparents," 32-year-old Komolion said while her baby girl played in the distance. "This is the culture we have, this is the way we found it."

Komolion's attitude is entrenched among most women and young girls living in rural Kenya where many people still highly value female circumcision despite efforts by the government, churches and civic groups to stamp out the practice.

President Daniel arap Moi outlawed the circumcision of girls under the age of 17 in December, introducing prison terms and penalties of up to 50,000 shillings ($640), a huge amount of money for most Kenyans who earn less than a dollar a day.

Opponents of circumcision say it is painful, outdated and carries grave health risks, but criminalizing the practice will not deter uneducated people like Komolion, nor their leaders in remote areas like the Kacheliba constituency in western Kenya.

"I don't like the view people have taken to approaching the problem by condemnation, by demonizing people who practice it and making it look like they are primitive," said Samuel Poghisio, an assistant minister from Kacheliba.

Like most Kenyan tribes who practice female circumcision, the cattle-tending Pokot community living in Kacheliba view it as a rite of passage from girlhood to womanhood.

More importantly, they believe it controls a woman's appetite for sex, putting a lid on promiscuity.

The nomadic Pokot men insist on marrying only circumcised women because they are more likely to find them "untouched" when they return from months of wandering in search of scarce water and grazing land for their cattle in the arid landscape.

"We prefer the girls we marry to be circumcised because it reduces adultery," said 31-year-old Lomunyongole Anokile, switching his spear from one hand to the other as he peered over the thick bushes to survey his herd of cattle.

Girls too accept the argument, believing it would be difficult to find a husband if they are not circumcised.

Even worse is the fear of dealing with the community, which stigmatizes uncircumcised women and labels them cowards. Such girls would rather commit suicide than stay uncircumcised.

"We as girls have no alternative but to carry on with it because there is no other way of showing courage and passage into adulthood," said 16-year-old Nakiru Dawan, the most outspoken of a group of friends circumcised this month.

The girls, beautifully dressed in yellow and black beaded collars, know they will soon find a man to marry.

But not all girls choose the same path to adulthood.

Francesca Lushake and a group of her friends who have just completed secondary education carry glowing candles and sing songs at a ceremony in another Pokot area to symbolize that they have seen the light and no longer dwell in darkness.

It is the climax of an alternative rite of passage, referred to as "circumcision by words" as opposed to the physical ritual.

The alternative ceremony—still very a much a minority practice—is held after a seclusion period during which older women teach girls how to be good mothers and wives.

But even after the alternative rite, girls like Lushake are still looked down upon by many in the community.

"As a girl whose parents have been circumcised, people always ask me 'If your mother, your parents, your grandmother have been circumcised, who do you think you are?'" she said.

But Lushake is determined not to give in to the pressure because her schooling has taught her that circumcision often leads to infections, infertility and death during childbirth.

Normally the circumcision is carried out as a clitoridectomy or infibulation—the total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora. Health experts estimate that up to a third of Kenyan women have undergone some form of circumcision.

But interestingly, pastoralist Pokot men living on the border with Uganda have given up circumcising males.

About three decades ago, 30 boys who had been recovering from the operation were killed in a cross-border attack by members of the Ugandan Karimojong tribe.

Since then, boys have undergone a "non-circumcision" ritual known as "Sapana."

The initiate has to spear a bull at sunrise, old men feast on meat and milk and later bless the young man by smearing mud on his head to mark his transition into adulthood.

"If we circumcise boys we are raided by enemies. We need the boys for defense," said 65-year-old Kokorng'ole Kongole.

With AK-47 rifles at the ready, men clad in just a wrap of cloth spend most of their time thinking about cattle, the Pokot's lifeline.

Cows are so integral to Pokot life that women even use the animals' urine to wash their utensils, collecting it at dawn before the cattle leave to graze. Feeding the cattle and protecting them from raids totally preoccupies the Pokot men.

In return for providing security for the family, men expect women to be submissive on issues like female circumcision.

Experts say attitudes will be hard to change, all the more so because the preoccupation with cattle keeps many children out of schools and within the confines of traditional values.

Critics say opponents of female circumcision should first attend to the basic needs of poor people like Komolion before focusing on trying to eradicate the practice.

Francesca believes the battle will eventually be won, although it may take many years. "I believe with time girls who have not gone to school will understand," she said. *Reuters*

Only from an animal hater

THE PLAN of Manila Councilor J. Logarta to kill stray animals that are sick and disabled, weak and old and those who constantly bark, is reminiscent of the dark days of Adolf Hitler, where the old, weak and disabled were gassed and killed.

Logarta is a cruel man and he wants to inflict his hate for animals on all Manila residents.

The people of Manila are not animal haters like Logarta. They should denounce him and never, never again elect an animal hater and killer.—**DANIEL DIZON**

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

US Army plane crashes in Pakistan

TWO Afghan men walk down a road through a demolished Estalif village near the newly formed refugee camp with approximately 500 refugees in the mountains above Shomali Plains, north of Kabul, Jan. 9. The refugees, housed in tents, returned from Panjshir Valley four days ago with a shortage of food and fuel as winter sets in. AFP

ISLAMABAD—A US military tanker plane carrying at least seven marines crashed in southwest Pakistan Wednesday, military officials said, in what could be the highest casualty toll for the United States since it began its war on terrorism.

The KC-130 refueling and troop-carrying plane crashed into a hilltop while coming in to land at the forward operating base in Shamsi, Pakistani security officials said.

If the seven marines are confirmed dead, the crash will constitute the single largest number of US casualties since the operation to root out the terrorist al-Qaida network from Afghanistan began on Oct. 7.

Seven other US military personnel have died in the war: one soldier died by hostile fire Jan. 5; a CIA operative was killed in a prison riot in Afghanistan in November; three US special forces troops by friendly fire in early December; and two US service members were killed in a helicopter crash in Pakistan Oct. 20.

Meanwhile, in the Afghan capital of Kabul, international troops prepared to move in to protect the country's fledgling power-sharing government led by interim leader Hamid Karzai.

Karzai, whose administration will run Afghanistan for six months, explained in his first televised address to the nation since being sworn Dec. 22, that the greatest threat to peace was the number of guns on the streets.

"The rule of the gun is the greatest obstacle to everlasting peace and security in our country," he said

A government official said earlier Wednesday that Interior Minister Yunus Qanooni had ordered the Afghan military to quit Kabul within three days and leave security duties in the capital to Afghan police and an international peacekeeping force.

"After that, the peacekeeping force along with our police force will be patrolling the city," said Din Mohammad Jorat, chief of the law and order department at the ministry.

The 17-nation UN-mandated force, which is under the command of British Maj. Gen. John McColl, has already started deploying in the country and should reach its full strength of 4,500 by the end of the month.

All but one of the contributing countries are European. As well as Britain, they are: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Turkey. *AFP*

Ebola deaths reach 25; doctors pull out

LIBREVILLE, Gabon—An international team of medical experts pulled out of a remote town struck by Ebola as the deadly disease claimed another life in the central African region, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

The WHO said security concerns prompted the decision to pull out Tuesday of Mekambo, a jungle town about 750 km northeast of Gabon's capital, Libreville. But the agency gave no details.

The team from the WHO and Gabon's health ministry had temporarily relocated to the provincial capital, Makokou, about 180 km southwest of Mekambo, the WHO said in a statement issued in Geneva, Switzerland.

Officials in Gabon and Switzerland declined to specify the reasons for the move, but said the team intended to return to Mekambo as soon as possible.

The move came at a time of mounting tension in Mekambo and surrounding villages, where many blame outsiders for the difficulties they have had since the outbreak began in October. Some even question whether Ebola is the cause of the deaths in Gabon and neighboring Republic of Congo, instead blaming witchcraft.

Details were not immediately available on the latest fatality in Gabon, which brought the death toll there to 18. The disease has also killed seven people in Republic of Congo.

The WHO said 34 cases in all had been confirmed in the two countries—21 in Gabon and 13 in Republic of Congo. *AP*

7 potential new trouble spots seen

WASHINGTON—Seven conflicts brewing in Africa, Asia and Europe could escalate into full-fledged humanitarian emergencies in 2002, but the world's ability to respond to them is likely to remain limited, the US intelligence community predicted.

The forecast is contained in a report released Wednesday by the National Intelligence Council, the analytical branch of the 13 agencies that make up the US intelligence community.

A team of intelligence experts who conducted the study believes that the conflict in the Balkan nation of Macedonia, which made headlines last year when ethnic Albanian rebels battled government security forces, has a medium-to-high probability of boiling over into a major clash with "very high" potential impact on the rest of Europe.

The experts also drew attention to the southern African nation of Zimbabwe, where a drought coupled with mounting civil unrest fueled by high inflation, racial tensions and disrupted agricultural production due to land reform "are likely to precipitate a humanitarian crisis by spring 2002."

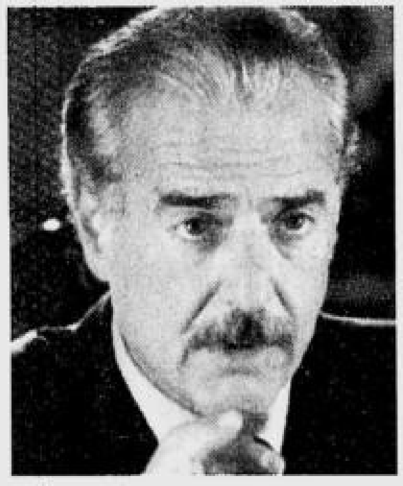
The current trickle of boat people trying to leave Haiti could grow into a torrent if economic stagnation and political stalemate in the Caribbean nation were to coincide with a severe economic downturn, according to the report.

Regional refugee crises could be created in Kenya, Ivory Coast and Nigeria where economic problems combined with droughts, repression, and ethnic and religious strife were bound to displace thousands of people.

While rating the probability of a major armed clash between India and Pakistan over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir as low, the experts warned that if a full-scale war did erupt in the region, it would have dire consequences.

"Such a conflict probably would spread to the Indian state of Rajasthan and the Indian and Pakistani states of Punjab, displacing well over one million people," the report predicted.

With new crises bubbling under the surface, the US intelligence analysts said that the old humanitarian emergencies in Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, North Korea and Sudan were not likely to go away. *AFP*



PASTRANA

Colombia gives rebs 48 hours

BOGOTA, Colombia—Colombian President Andres Pastrana said on Wednesday FARC rebels had 48 hours to vacate a demilitarized zone in the country's south, but that doors were still open to rescue three-year-old peace talks.

In a televised address to the nation, Pastrana said the FARC's three-month-old insistence on relaxing military controls around their southern enclave meant that progress on substantive issues such as a ceasefire was impossible.

"The government understands that the FARC are not continuing at the (negotiating) table, and as a consequence, the FARC have 48 hours, as agreed, to leave the zone," Pastrana said in a televised address to the nation.

"But I want to be clear. This is not the end. I will continue to seek peace, with the help of all of you. I will maintain the doors of dialogue and negotiation open," he said.

Hours before Pastrana's speech, a spokesperson for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—whose Spanish initials are FARC—angrily denied that the rebels had walked away from peace talks. *Reuters*

Worst railways in Europe

LONDON—Britain has the worst railways in Europe and solving the problems on the network has become an intractable problem, according to a British government minister.

"We have the worst railways in Europe. We started transport investment far too late. It is an intractable problem," Junior Foreign Minister Peter Hain told the weekly Spectator magazine in an interview due to be published on Friday.

"We should have been more radical earlier," he said.

Hain's gave the interview at the start of a series of rail strikes which have caused chaos in London, northern England and Scotland.

His comments appeared to be a rebuke to Transport Secretary Stephen Byers, although he insisted that was not the case, saying that turning around decades of under-investment would take "an awful long time."

One of the busiest commuter routes into London has been hit by two 48-hour stoppages and more industrial action is on the way, while services in northern England and Scotland are also affected by unrelated disputes.

The government claims the underlying causes of the problems on the railways are decades of neglect and the network's break-up under privatization. *AFP*

Belfast school shut after night of rioting

BELFAST—A Roman Catholic girls' school at the center of a bitter sectarian dispute in Northern Ireland was closed on Thursday after a flashpoint district of Belfast exploded into rioting overnight.

Up to 500 Catholics and Protestants battled in the streets around Holy Cross Primary School in north Belfast, with police coming under "sustained and highly orchestrated" attack when they moved in to separate the rival factions.

Riot police were pelted with petrol bombs, acid bombs, flares, fireworks, bricks and bottles, and responded by firing plastic baton rounds, hitting seven people.

A spokesperson said 14 officers were hurt in the clashes—which began on Wednesday afternoon and continued into the early hours of Thursday—and four Catholics were wounded when a gunman opened fire with a shotgun. None was badly hurt.

The fresh violence raised fears of a new blockade of the school, which last year witnessed ugly clashes during a 12-week Protestant protest which became a symbol for the sectarian hatreds that still divide north Belfast.

Both sides blamed each other for the trouble, which police said started after an altercation between two women as Catholic parents went to collect their children from the school, located in a Protestant enclave bordering a Catholic neighborhood.

"There has been friction every day with the parents going to school, and I have to say it has come from both sides," Assistant Chief Constable Alan McQuillan told BBC Radio. *Reuters*

A BRITISH soldier stands in front of a burning hijacked vehicle on the Ardoyne Road in north Belfast, Jan. 9. Violence flared in a flashpoint district of Belfast on Wednesday, close to the Roman Catholic Holy Cross Primary School at the center of ugly clashes last year between security forces and Protestant protesters. REUTERS

US gov't opens criminal probe of Enron

WASHINGTON—The Justice Department said on Wednesday it had opened a criminal investigation of Enron Corp., as the controversy over the energy giant's collapse widened.

Officials declined to say exactly when the criminal probe began. But they said it was centered in the department's criminal division and that a task force was being set up to handle the case.

Robert Bennett, attorney for Enron, said, "When this investigation is finished, a lot of the things that people are reading and hearing will be proven to be not true."

He said he was pleased with the prospect of an investigation that would "bring light" to the facts.

"It is very difficult to deal with multiple entities . . . We have been in contact with several different prosecutors," Bennett said.

Once the world's largest energy trader, Enron slid in mere weeks last year from Wall Street stardom to making the largest bankruptcy filing in US history on Dec. 2. Its downfall, after withdrawal of a rescue takeover bid by rival Dynegy Inc., threw thousands out of work and devastated investors.

The episode sapped the life savings of many Enron employees whose 401(k) retirement plans depended on the company's stock, while top executives allegedly pocketed fat profits by selling ahead of a dizzying plunge in the share price.

The White House on Wednesday said it was likely to soon propose new policies to guard against a repeat of the Enron debacle. White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer, asked about the justice department probe, said it was important to get to the bottom of the Enron collapse and develop new policies to protect workers and pensioners. *Reuters*

Robot prowls pond to scare diving pelicans

BY JANET MCCONNAUGHEY

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana—It prowls the pond, on the hunt for pelicans and cormorants. When it's close enough, SPLAT!

It's a solar-powered robot scarecrow that guards catfish and crawfish ponds with a water cannon.

The basic model has paddlewheels and pontoons; a student is building one to look like a big alligator.

There are still bugs to be worked out, but developers at Louisiana State University figure they may be able to talk to manufacturers about their project sometime next year.

"Some people have told us they tried alligator decoys," said researcher Randy Price. "They said it worked really well for about a month, until the birds realized it was just a decoy."

An 2.4-meter-long "robogator" might keep the birds fooled, he said.

"Catfish farmers are our biggest pressure right now. They're losing a lot of fingerlings—baby catfish," said fellow researcher Steve Hall. "That can cost them tens of thousands of dollars."

Catfish farmers say they also spend thousands of dollars a year to scare the diving birds with sonic cannons or to kill them with poison or guns.

A University of Arkansas study at a state hatchery found that, even though cormorants showed up during only two of the study's 15 months, they were by far the biggest predators. They ate more than a million catfish—fingerlings worth nearly $90,000, making up nearly half the fishery's stock.

Hall, an aquaculture specialist, and Price, whose field is agricultural automation, figure their solar-powered invention might sell for $500 to $600.

"It sounds like it'd be real good for each individual pond. But no way you could afford it all around the whole farm, I would think," said Rick Moyer, who has about 40 ponds at his aquaculture farm in Sunflower, Mississippi. *AP*

Palestinian attack sets back peace bid

JERUSALEM—US-led efforts to turn a lull in 15 months of violence into a lasting ceasefire were in jeopardy on Thursday after two Palestinian gunmen killed four Israeli soldiers in a raid on a military post in Israel.

The attack near Israel's border with the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, in which the gunmen also died, ended a three-week lull which had provided a glimmer of hope that Israel and the Palestinians might implement a truce-to-talks plan.

The Izz el-Deen al-Qassam brigades of the militant Islamic group Hamas said it launched the attack, partly in response to Israel's seizure of a shipload of arms which Israeli officials say were bound for the Palestinians—who deny the allegation.

Israel hit back after Wednesday's attack by demolishing two Palestinian security posts in southern Gaza near the border with Israel and closing three naval buildings on the Mediterranean Sea coast. But tougher reprisals were widely expected.

Three days after US Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni ended a visit to the region saying there were positive signs, President George W. Bush expressed concern about the situation.

ARAFAT

"It's particularly disturbing because it came at a time when the situation on the ground had been relatively quiet, and the United States has been working intensely . . . to help the parties achieve a durable peace," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat after the attack. Powell said he urged Arafat to provide a quick explanation for the arms shipment.

Zinni is still expected to return to the region later this month but doubts that he can achieve progress are growing.

"Given that neither side is truly committed to peace, there is no real hope for success, said Israeli political analyst Joseph Alpher.

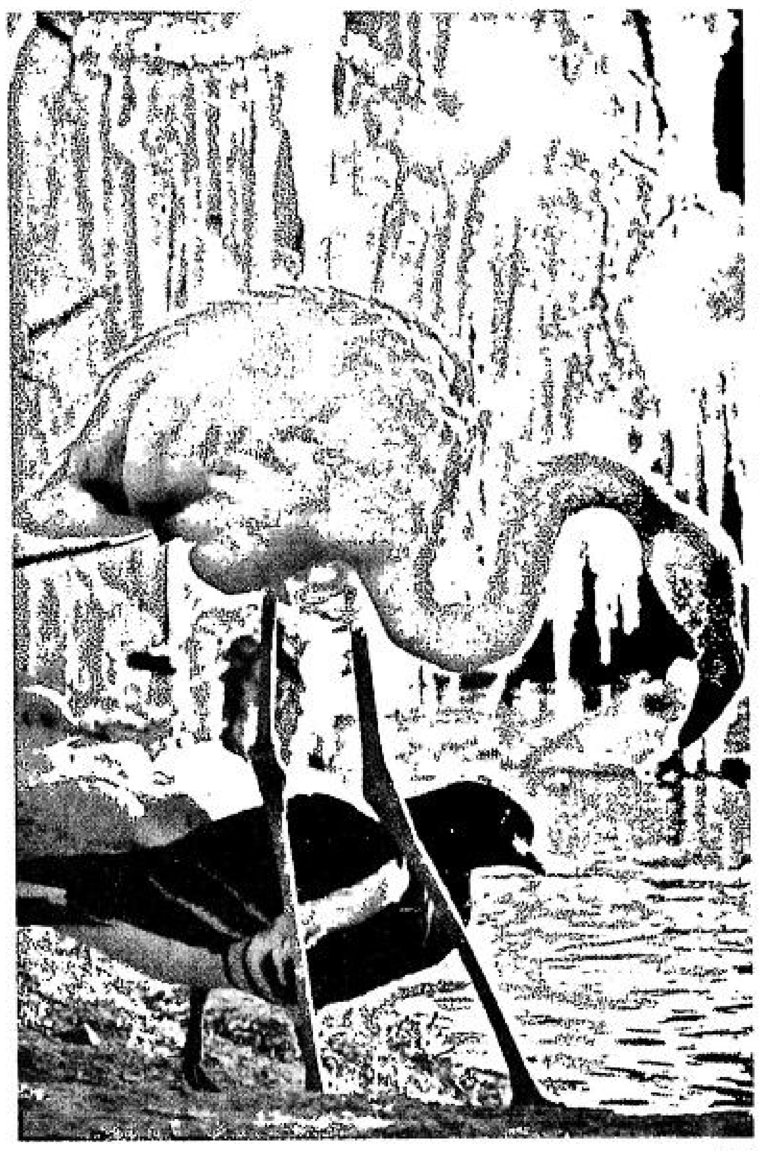
The Palestinians say peace hopes are also dented by Sharon's demand for seven days of total calm before the internationally brokered truce-to-talks plan can go into effect.

"That means a single bullet, a single stone, sets the clock right back to the beginning in Sharon's view," said Palestinian political analyst Ali Jarbawi.

The two gunmen used rifles and grenades in the attack on the Army post at the village of Kerem Shalom in southern Israel, and were shot dead in a brief gun battle after killing an officer and three soldiers. The officer and soldiers were bedouin Arabs.

The Palestinian Authority condemned Wednesday's raid—the most serious violence in the region since Arafat called for a halt to attacks in Israel on Dec. 16 under international pressure following a wave of suicide bombings against Israelis.

But Sharon blamed Arafat for the attack, as well as the arms smuggling attempt, and said Israel would review its policy toward the Palestinian Authority. *Reuters*



ICE AND 'FLAME' AFP

A flamingo passes an ice-laden tree at Hagenbeck zoo in Hamburg early January. Temperatures in northern Germany are expected to stay cold for some time.

Australia beats back bush fires

SYDNEY—A huge clean-up operation was underway Thursday as Australian firefighters finally beat back bush fires burning since Christmas Eve thanks to waterbombing and a break in the heat.

But Rural Fire Service (RFS) spokesperson Cameron Wade warned it was not over yet for the 3,000 firefighters still on the ground in the southern state of New South Wales.

"This is where they are actually putting out every last stump and every last tree so that when the winds come up tomorrow, as they're predicted, it doesn't blow the fire into new unburnt ground," he said.

The lull in the weather gave firefighters some respite and meant they were in "mop-up mode."

Weather conditions are expected to deteriorate on Friday however, and residents in fire-affected areas remained on alert.

Three giant helitankers continued to douse flames on the south coast, dumping 9,000-liter loads of water on large fires in the southern Shoalhaven region which had earlier put houses in peril.

"They're working up in the national park west of Nowra," Wade said.

Property protection had been the firefighters' first priority, but now there was a lull in the inferno the helitankers could be utilized in areas where houses were not under threat, he said.

Most of the 80 bush fires still burning around the state should be contained over the weekend, RFS commissioner.Phil Koperberg said.

On day 18 of the crisis, Koperberg said this would not mean the crisis was over as there was a big difference between the fires being contained and out.

"Contained simply means the spread of fire has effectively been halted but that the fires are still burning within containment lines," he said. *AFP*

Up to 100 China missiles seen pointing at US

WASHINGTON—China is expected to have between 75 and 100 long-range nuclear missiles pointed at the United States by 2015, roughly quadruple the current number, according to a CIA report released Wednesday.

Many of those intercontinental ballistic missiles will be on mobile launchers, helping China maintain a nuclear deterrent against the vastly larger US missile force, says the report, titled "Foreign Missile Developments and the Ballistic Missile Threat Through 2015."

Echoing earlier intelligence estimates, the report also says North Korea and Iran will probably have long-range missiles capable of reaching the United States by 2015. These assessments have been used to justify US plans for multibillion-dollar missile defense systems capable of shooting down a limited ICBM attack on the continental United States.

The report draws together information and analyses from the CIA and other US intelligence.

Currently, China has about 20 silos with CSS-4 nuclear ICBMs capable of reaching the United States, the report says. It also has a few medium-range, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and probably one submarine from which to launch them.

The Chinese military is developing three new missile systems, all of which could be fielded by 2010, the report says. The Chinese may also be able to mount multiple-independent re-entry vehicles—MIRVs—on its older silo-based missiles. These enable a single missile to launch warheads at several targets, vastly increasing potential damage.

China sees an expanded ICBM force as necessary to overcome a US missile defense system, maintaining its ability to strike the US mainland. This would provide a deterrent during a conflict over Taiwan. While US officials insist the missile defense program is to defeat strikes by North Korea and other "rogue" nations, some of those proposed defenses might have been sufficient to shoot down all 20 Chinese ICBMs. Eighty missiles would be too many, however.

China also is expanding its short-range ballistic missile force, and will probably have several hundred by 2005, the report says. *AP*

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A12 FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Gov tops list of NPA targets

BY TONETTE OREJAS
AND ANSELMO ROQUE
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III topped the list of people targeted for execution by the communist New People's Army, documents recovered by Army soldiers in Tuesday's clash in Pangasinan showed.

This was confirmed by Brig. Gen. Alberto Braganza, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija. He did not disclose the contents of the list and its accompanying documents.

No details were given on the alleged offenses of Joson and the other supposed targets of the NPA.

JOSON

Braganza said Joson, chair of the Central Luzon Peace and Development Council, was "properly warned" on Thursday after the list was declassified.

Joson, who belongs to the powerful and land-owning Joson clan that has controlled Nueva Ecija politics for decades, said he did not know why the NPA would include him in its hit list.

"I don't know of any reason why they are planning to kill me," Joson told the INQUIRER.

He said his program of government was pro-poor, transparent and meant to lessen the gap between the rich and the poor. He said he could not remember any incident wherein he abused anybody.

Joson, however, said that in 1999, he received reports that he was included in the NPA hit list because of allegations that he was siding with the military.

"*Pero sabi ko noon, pag tama ang ginagawa ng militar, kampi nila ako. Pag may abuso, kalaban nila ako* (But my position is if the military is doing the right thing, I would support them. If there are abuses, then I am their enemy)," he said.

Braganza said the list also contained names of leaders belonging to rival factions of the NPA.

The list, according to him, was recovered from the belongings of Victor Lazo, who was identified as the military chief of the NPA's Josepino Corpuz Command operating in the boundaries of Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya and eastern Pangasinan.

Lazo, said to be the chair of the NPA's Nueva Ecija provincial committee's executive committee, was one of two suspected rebels killed in a 20-minute clash with government troops in Barangay Masiil-siil in Umingan, Pangasinan, on Tuesday.

Lazo's body was claimed by his relatives on Thursday, reports said.

Another rebel, who was killed in the clash, has yet to be identified.

The encounter was the first reported clash in Northern and Central Luzon after the ceasefire between the military and the NPA ended on Jan. 6.

Bishop distributes rice land in Isabela

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The family of a Catholic bishop is distributing its farmland in Cabagan, Isabela, to 45 poor farming families to support the government's "land for the landless" program.

Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao said 52 hectares of his family's irrigated rice land in Barangay Annaronan in Cabagan would be divided and distributed to the 45 families starting this week.

Talamayan, the family's administrator, said the land distribution would be supervised and coordinated by Abrino Aydinan, Department of Agrarian Reform regional director, and other officials.

The bishop said titles would be issued to the families.

Talamayan said he was hoping that the beneficiaries would not be tempted to sell the land.

Last year, Talamayan distributed 50 hectares of land owned by the Catholic Church to 50 families in Baggao, Cagayan. He also distributed 30 hectares of land to families in Barangay Tanza-Caggay here. The families were forced to squat on a roadside in the city after the Pinacanauan River eroded their property, mostly situated along the riverbank. ***Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Suspect in kidnapping of 2 students surrenders

BY CONNIE E. FERNANDEZ
AND CHITO A. FUENTES
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—A suspect in the kidnapping of two siblings on Monday surrendered yesterday to a village chief in Sevilla town, 28 kilometers southwest of this city.

Jaime Agad, 28, of Barangay Kalinginan Norte, Sevilla, turned himself in to Luisito Dagaan, barangay chair of Cambague at about 10 a.m.

His surrender came about 30 minutes after kidnapping charges were filed against him and his two companions before the city prosecutor's office for the abduction of Ruth Adante, 14, and her brother John, 12.

Agad was brought to the city police station, where he is now detained.

Supt. Sancho Bernales, Bohol police director, appealed to the two other kidnappers to give themselves up. They were identified as Noel Fernandez, of Barangay Kalinginan, Sevilla; and Romeo Laguitao, of Valencia town.

He said the relatives of Fernandez and Laguitao had assured the police that they would help facilitate their surrender. Members of the newly formed anti-kidnapping task force were hunting down the two, Bernales added.

The kidnappers forced the children into the family-owned van driven by their mother Teodorica inside the compound of the Bohol Wisdom School at about noon on Monday. Both Ruth and John are students of the school.

One of the kidnappers drove the van to Cambague. Teodorica was told to return with P1.5 million in ransom.

The woman decided to cooperate with the police and went back to the village with P50,000 as "show money." Meanwhile, lawmen positioned themselves near the meeting place.

The kidnappers panicked after noticing police presence and fled to different directions. But one of them was able to grab the bag containing the P50,000.

The police later found the children unharmed and abandoned near a ravine.

Bernales said Noel Galia, a motorcycle-for-hire driver who served as a lookout for the kidnap group, identified the suspects on Tuesday.

Galia told police that he still had about P1,000 of the amount given to him by the three kidnappers, Bernales said. The driver did not say how much was given to him.

Bernales said he and other police officers immediately went to the suspects' homes but were told that they had just left.

Bernales said they were in Agad's house in Barangay Kalinginan Norte when a karaoke set, purchased by the suspect, was delivered.

Agad's younger brother confirmed that Jaime gave him P7,000 to buy the set, which was later seized by the police.

Bernales said the suspects were amateurs who pulled off the kidnapping to "test" themselves.

"These three spent sometime in Manila to work. It might be in Manila where they got the idea to conduct some kidnapping activities in Bohol," Bernales said in Cebuano.

Lawmaker says son not behind killing

CEBU CITY—Surigao del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo yesterday denied allegations that her son was involved in the killing of his wife, whose body was found inside a garbage bag on Tuesday in the southern Cebu town of Dalaguete.

Ecleo also maintained that Ruben Jr. was never hooked on drugs as claimed by relatives of the victim, Alona Bacolod Ecleo, also from Dinagat Island, Surigao del Norte, the bailiwicks of the Ecleos.

She said her son's in-laws wanted to malign him when they accused him of killing his wife. "He felt bad and worried (that he was implicated in his wife's murder)," she told radio station dyLA.

Ecleo said Ruben, who is now in Surigao, had wanted to come to Cebu to cooperate with police investigators, but she stopped him because she believed he would just be subjected to a trial by publicity.

Instead, she advised her son to prove his innocence and face his accusers in the proper forum.

The police have tagged Ruben as prime suspect in Alona's killing.

Alona, 27, a graduating medical student at the Southwestern University in Cebu, was reported missing by her family on Sunday.

She and Ruben had three children. They owned a house in Forest Hill, Barangay Guadalupe, Cebu City.

Ruben went home to Surigao on Tuesday afternoon, purportedly to look for his wife, according to a note he left to their housemaid in Cebu.

Also in the afternoon of same day, the decomposing body of Alona was found inside a garbage bag that was dumped in Barangay Coro, Dalaguete, 85 kilometers south of this City.

Her elder brother Ben identified Alona through the pieces of jewelry she was wearing.

The Bacolod family, however, blamed Ruben for the killing. Ben claimed that Ruben was angry with his sister because she insisted that he be placed in a drug rehabilitation center. ***Jhunnex Napallacan and Franklin A. Caliguid.***

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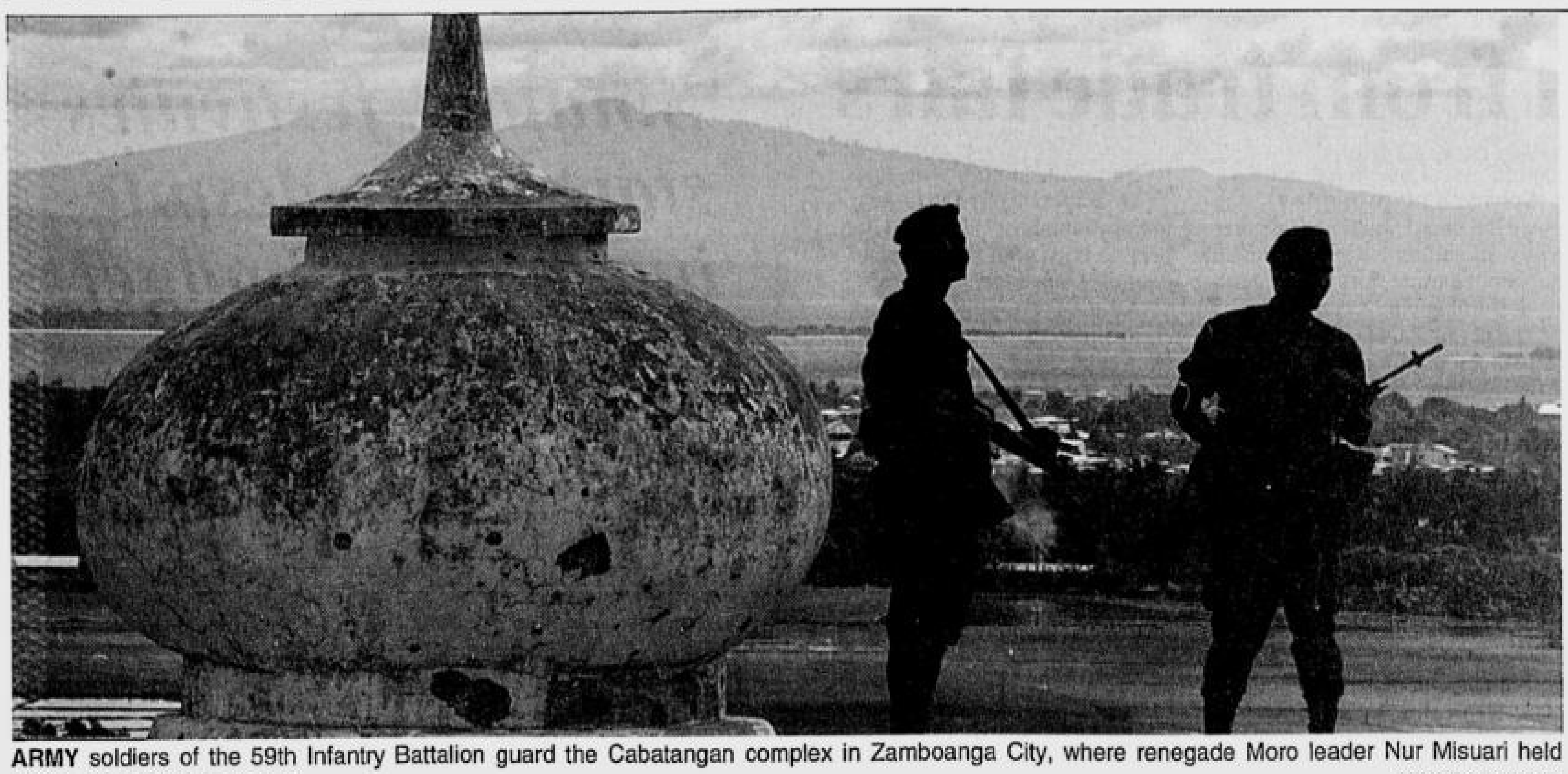


ARMY soldiers of the 59th Infantry Battalion guard the Cabatangan complex in Zamboanga City, where renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari held office as ARMM governor. DENNIS SABANGAN

Misuari men attack soldiers; 1 killed

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—An Army Scout Ranger was killed while nine others were seriously wounded in an ambush staged by members of the Abu Sayyaf and forces loyal to renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari in Indanan, Sulu, the military said yesterday.

Two of the attackers were killed, Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the Southern Command based here, said.

The soldiers, belonging to the 2nd and 4th Scout Ranger Battalion were on a marketing chore when they were attacked near Mount Makkam in Barangay Tubig Patong, Indanan, at around 2:05 p.m. Tuesday.

Servando identified the slain soldier as Pfc. Nelson Enriquez and the wounded as Sergeants Fontanilla, Labitan and Roque, Privates First Class Nasaga, Catabay, Rullian and Tupaz, and Corporals Mendoza and Torsar.

The wounded were brought to the Sulu Provincial Hospital.

Servando said government reinforcements recovered one M16 rifle from the ambush site. Pursuit operations were still ongoing, he added.

Members of the 6th Marine Battalion Landing Team under Col. Orlando de Leon, were transferred from Luuk town to beef up government forces in Indanan, Servando said.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern sections of Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 18°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 20° Lo 09°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 27° Lo 16°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 19°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 17°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 25° Lo 17°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 27° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 18°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 22°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/01/11/02

3-YEAR PROGRAM

Hybrid rice boosts palay production

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—The country can expect better palay production this year as the government and the private sector join hands in giving the much-needed boost to the hybrid rice production program.

The three-year program, which starts this year, will cover 135,000 to 300,000 hectares of rice land that will be planted to hybrid rice.

Dr. Edilberto Redoña, deputy executive director of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) here, said an executive order issued last month by President Macapagal-Arroyo puts priority on hybrid rice production, including seed production.

He said the order also provided the needed support from government for the program, including the involvement of the private sector like commercial rice millers and traders.

Redoña, a former team leader of PhilRice's hybrid rice program, said at least 15 to 25-percent increase in yield in production was expected once the program is implemented.

This means 780 to 1,270 kilograms (15.6 cavans of 50 kilos each to 25.4 cavans) more per hectare in terms of yield. Studies conducted by PhilRice in 1998 indicated yields of up to 10.2 tons per hectare (204 cavans), that was much better than the best inbred rice variety that yielded only 6.7 tons (134 cavans).

On a large scale, on-farm demonstration trials for the hybrid rice, the highest yield obtained in Cagayan and Bohol was 12 tons per hectare (240 cavans).

The variety used was the *Mestizo* (PSB Rc72H), which was said to be comparable or better than the IR64 variety preferred by many rice consumers.

Hybrid rice, Redoña explained, is the direct product of two genetically different parents whose seedlings are highly vigorous and the mature plant has better reproductive characteristic.

It differs from the inbred rice varieties because the flowers of the inbred rice contain both male and female organs that can reproduce itself through self-pollination or inbreeding.

In hybrid rice, a new seed must always be produced for planting. The seed costs P120 a kilo, but unlike in the use of inbred rice, the seed requirement per hectare is only 20 kg.

The government launched the national hybrid rice program in 1998, but the goals were not immediately achieved. Under the revitalized program, government agencies, like the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Budget and Management and the National Food Authority, were authorized to accelerate the use of hybrid rice.

A number of private companies, it was learned, are now involved in the production of hybrid rice seeds, as well as various farmers' groups in the country.

Three new hybrid rice varieties produced in the country will be introduced soon, it was learned.

Agriculture experts said the hybrid rice could make a big difference in the country's goal of achieving self-sufficiency in rice and in the creation of more jobs.

They said the commercial production of hybrid rice has helped other countries attain development.

China grows hybrid rice in 17 million hectares out of its 33 million hectares of rice land. Other countries that grow hybrid rice are India (250,000 hectares) and Vietnam (180,000 hectares).

At least 17 other countries have started adopting hybrid rice in their farms.

Yuan's legacy of bountiful harvests in RP

By Nini Valera

RANDY Madrigal of Ilocos Norte came to Manila last year to marry his girlfriend Elvira, who works as a domestic helper in Singapore.

Two days after Christmas, he flew to Taiwan to work in a factory, paying his recruiter some P40,000 as placement fee.

But if Madrigal, 24, had his way, he would rather have gone back to his hometown in Ilocos and taken over the piece of land planted with rice that his father owns. He would have wanted to bring his bride home instead of letting her go back to her Chinese employer in Singapore for two more years.

The family of pedicab driver Ruel Pied also wants to go back to the province to till the land. But the fear of a harder life than the one they have in the city is stopping them from going home.

"Sometimes, the sale from a harvest of rice is not even enough to pay the landlord," says Pied, who grew up in Biliran to a farmer and his wife. "If only we could be assured of a good harvest every time, I wouldn't mind settling there with my family."

Same dilemma

Madrigal faces the same dilemma. Shortly before the Taiwan job came, he was seriously thinking of becoming a farmer like his father, who is now sickly with the ills of old age. He also shares the same fears as Pied's.

"What if I do not have a good harvest?" he says.

Hundreds of thousands of migrants from the provinces come to Manila yearly, swelling further its already burgeoning population and joining the ranks of the jobless.

In Quezon City alone, half its population of more than two million are squatter families, who have come to the city to escape the poverty of the provinces.

Hopefully, there will soon be a migration back to the provinces and the soil, if an experimental project on hybrid rice on test farms in Davao and Laguna conducted by Chinese Prof. Yuan Longping proves to be successful.

Not only would this new variety of rice easily treble rice production in the country, it would also encourage the local farmer to nurture the land.

The epitaph on a statue that stands in China to honor Yuan, one of the country's greatest living legends, says, "If you want prosperity, you can rely on Deng Xiaoping. But if you want food, you can rely on Prof. Yuan Longping."

RM awardee

A recipient of the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, Yuan is also referred to in Chinese textbooks as the "father of hybrid rice."

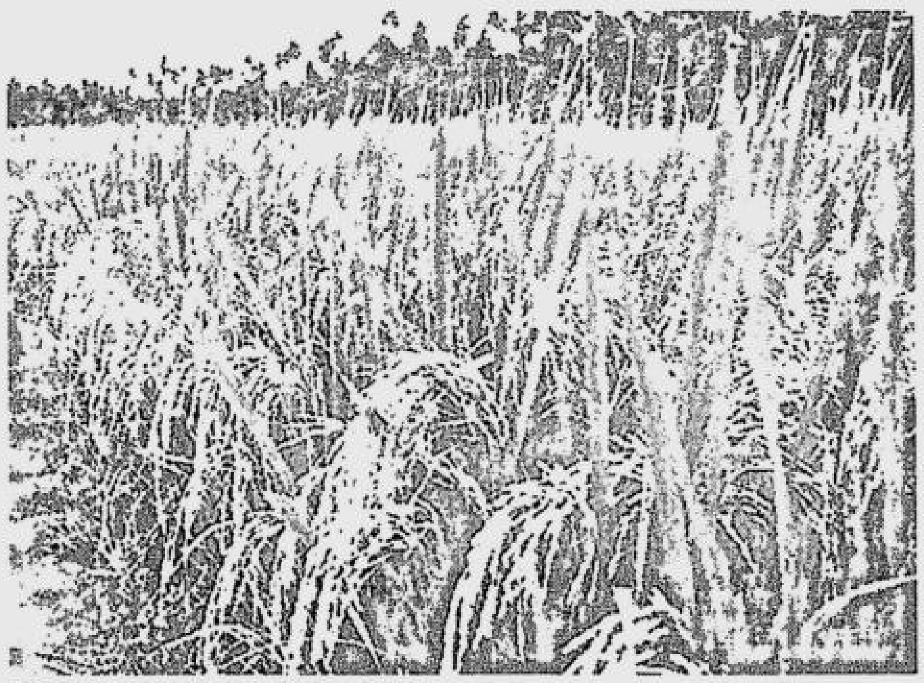
Now in the golden years of his life, Yuan is developing local rice hybrids for the Philippines as part of a project he has started in partnership with a local Chinese entrepreneur.

These hybrids are designed to quickly increase current Philippine rice production rates and enable the country not only to be self-sufficient, but also to export some of our rice surplus abroad.

Already, a pioneering result of his work in the Philippines is a rice hybrid called "Mestizo," which was made available to Filipino farmers late last year through SL Agritech, an active participant in the one-million-jobs program of Luisito Lorenzo Jr., presidential adviser for agriculture and rural development.

Hybrid rice technology is the centerpiece of Lorenzo's mandate of creating a million new jobs for Filipinos as promised by President Macapagal-Arroyo during her first State-of-the Nation address to the Philippine Congress.

"Adoption of the hybrid rice technology will create new jobs in two ways," says Yuan. "First, it will increase rice production dramatically so that more labor will be required to handle the additional work and harvest."



HOPE grows with hybrid rice farming.

Secondly, he says, "It will make rice farming more profitable, convincing more people to invest in rice production. This will create more jobs. The big bonus comes in the form of increased rice supply, which will eventually lead to food sufficiency and wipe out rice importation."

The result of cross-pollination of select rice varieties, hybrid rice differentiates itself from all other rice varieties through the phenomenon called "heterosis," which accounts for unusual vigor in hybrid rice, making them more prolific and resistant to disease.

All-natural

The process is all-natural and does not involve genetic modification, explains Lorenzo, who approaches agriculture in a global perspective and sees it as a fertile area for his jobs generation program.

In China, which hosts a fourth of the world's population, more than 60 percent of arable land are planted to Professor Yuan's hybrid rice varieties. This has prompted top officials in Nanjing province to declare that hunger has been forever eradicated from the face of China.

"I have done my work in China, and now, it's time for me to look at other countries needing my help," says Yuan.

Should his work in the Philippines be as successful as it was in his homeland, Yuan would have made meaningful contributions to a people, who have long been slaves of the seasons, the land and a bleak global economy. Sons of farmers like Randy Madrigal and Ruel Pied no longer have to seek their fortune in the city, but find it in the land their fathers own.

To presidential adviser Lorenzo, a dramatic increase in rice productivity means that fewer hectares will be required for rice farms, allowing for the expansion of urban areas and industries to accommodate an increasing population and to counter galloping inflation.

It also means more jobs for Filipinos. That, to Lorenzo, is another significant bottom line.

Slain mayor buried; Tubo loses 'one of a kind' exec

BANGUED, Abra—Residents of Tubo town said they could never find another mayor like Jose Segundo who, they noted, showed genuine concern for the plight of his people and the development of their remote town.

Segundo, who was gunned down in Barangay Tubtuba in Tubo on Dec. 27, was buried in Baguio City on Monday.

Police are looking into politics, personal grudges and involvement of communist rebels in the province as possible motives in his murder.

"He did not want Tubo to be like his name 'Segundo' (second). He wanted it first in all things," Jose "Pepe" Segundo Jr., the mayor's son, told the INQUIRER.

Tubo residents said Segundo, who was also known as a faith healer, could be remembered for many things as an elected official and for his flamboyant lifestyle.

As a public servant who served Tubo for 10 years, Segundo was known for his love and understanding.

"He was good to his people and was easy to approach even if you are not his town mate," said Antonio Bangui Jr., a nephew of Segundo, said.

The mayor was known for being a "sweet talker" that his town mates loved to hear anything from him.

Asking help from Segundo was easy, but he had learned to "trick" people when he had no money or when he felt that those seeking help were abusing his generosity, the son said.

He said his father always carried two wallets whenever he went out of their house.

"One is empty so that if he did not have enough money or wanted to control giving cash, he would just show them the empty wallet," he said.

Tubo, located along the tri-boundary of Abra, Ilocos Sur, and Mt. Province, is 70 kilometers southeast of the capital town of Bangued. It is one of the poorest and remotest towns of Abra. It has 10 villages but some communities could only be reached by horseback.

"Aside from his dream for his town, my father said being called 'honorable' or 'mayor' was enough to satisfy him and compensate his sacrifices," the young Segundo said.

He said his father was also known for his flamboyance and womanizing.

All his belongings were signature products and were expensive. He owned several top-of-the-line cellular phone models, wore shirts worth at least P3,000 and shoes worth at least P10,000.

Segundo also went around in his Mercedes Benz or Nissan Strada when in Abra.

"*Gusto niya kung ano yung bago meron din siya* (He wanted to have things that were in with the times)," the young Segundo said.

Lourdes Formoso, an aide, said the mayor had also a habit of showing off his expensive things.

The young Segundo said his father was a "certified womanizer."

Segundo Jr., whose mother was Segundo's third wife, said his father had eight children from three relationships.

The mayor would have married his girlfriend, 21-year-old Maribless Binong of Barangay Tubtuba in Tubo, next month. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

ROUNDUP

Patient, hostage killed

PAGBILAO, Quezon—A man waiting to be treated by a quack doctor for psychosis held hostage and killed a child on Tuesday in Barangay Sta. Catalina here. Insp. Ronaldo Ilagan, Quezon police operations chief, identified the hostage-taker as Jerson Trinidad, 25, of Barangay Dalahican, Lucena City. Ilagan said Trinidad suddenly grabbed a kitchen knife and tried to stab his mother, who immediately called the police. When the lawmen arrived, Trinidad seized a 12-year-old boy named Meliton, who was passing by. Police tried to negotiate for the hostage's release, but Trinidad stabbed the boy in the belly, forcing the policemen to fire at him. Trinidad and Meliton were declared dead on arrival at the hospital. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

2 die in collision

BANTAY, Ilocos Sur—A tricycle driver and his passenger were killed Tuesday when their vehicle collided with a bus along the national highway in Barangay Baleleng here. Police identified the fatalities as Arcadio Oandasan, 37, and his passenger Helen Pablico, 37. Reports said the tricycle hit a southbound Partas bus after Oandasan tried to avoid a cow crossing the highway. The bus driver, Gerry Luczon, 40, was arrested by police. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Fire destroys warehouse

STA. LUCIA, Ilocos Sur—A fire razed a tobacco warehouse in Barangay Sabbuanan here on Wednesday. A 10-wheel truck parked near the warehouse was also burned during the 55-minute fire. Police said the fire started from the storage area of dried Virginia tobacco leaves. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Bagabag airport rehab

CAMP MELCHOR DELA CRUZ, Isabela—President Macapagal-Arroyo pledged to rehabilitate the Bagabag airport in Nueva Vizcaya to help perk up eco-tourism in Ifugao. Ms Macapagal said the major improvement of the airport was part of a master plan for the promotion of the Ifugao rice terraces as a premier tourist destination. The Bagabag airport is the nearest drop-off point for visitors who travel by air en route to Ifugao. From there, the tourist town of Banaue is just a 90-minute drive through the Nueva Vizcaya-Ifugao-Mt. Province road. ***Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Bus passengers robbed

BALANGA CITY—Four armed men believed to be members of robbery group operating in Central Luzon took at least P60,000 cash and valuables from 41 passengers of a Mariveles-bound bus on Tuesday. Police said two of the robbers also molested a 22-year-old female passenger while the rest divested the other passengers of their cash, jewelry and cellular phones. The robbers, armed with .38 cal. guns, announced the holdup when the bus reached Basa Highway in Guagua, Pampanga.
Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Aid to local industries

ILIGAN City Mayor Franklin Quijano yesterday urged the national government to consider giving priority assistance to local industries to save the jobs of thousands of workers and enhance the economy. "Substantial assistance can be extended by the national leadership, particularly the Tariff Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry, to industries such as steel, cement, tile and textile, which are threatened by cheap import surges from neighboring countries," Quijano said in a press statement. He pointed out that Iligan was still reeling from the closure of National Steel Corp. plant, which used to prop up the city's economy with its P20-billion annual revenues.

Baguio loses ₱2.9M from trade fairs

BAGUIO CITY—Whatever prompted Mayor Bernardo Vergara to violate several ordinances to allow 15 commercial trade fairs to operate in Burnham Park here has cost the city from P1.7 million to P2.9 million in lost revenues between Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

This was the conclusion reached by the city council on Wednesday after an inquiry into the trade fairs' operations.

Vice Mayor Betty Lourdes Tabanda said the inquiry was fueled by a city treasury report which admitted the receipt of a bounced check amounting to P300,000, representing one trade fair's payment for using the park from Nov. 17 to Dec. 23.

The bounced check was issued by a trader from Mindanao, according to a report by city treasurer Thelma Manaois.

It was included in an accounting list obtained by the council that showed P1,732,950 in collectibles from trade fairs that the mayor's office allowed to operate in the park.

The operation was allowed in spite of a series of resolutions and ordinances prohibiting businesses from using the park.

But a subsequent accounting made by the councilors showed revenue losses totaling P2,949,990.

The city treasury or the office of the parks superintendent could not determine exactly how many traders benefited from Vergara's special permits.

The permits covered 15 trade fair operations, including that of a Japanese merchant Masahiro Okudo, who financed a trade fair organized by the Baguio Organization of Spouses Foundation Inc. (Bosfi).

These also benefited about 1,000 sidewalk vendors who were allowed to ply their trade freely on market sidewalks for a one-time "tolerance fee" of P230 and daily dues of P1.

The permits ignored Resolution 200, a principal legislation protecting the park from commerce, which was issued in 1993, according to city architect Ignacio Estipona.

Subsequent resolutions protected the park from business enterprises, including a 1999 document that banned trade fairs from operating at Burnham in December.

The permits also violated zoning ordinances guiding the operations of the city market.

All these resolutions were violated in November when several trade fairs began setting up stalls at the park, on the strength of special permits issued by the mayor.

The move surprised city officials, according to several city executives who testified in the inquiry.

According to Manaois, the city government managed to redeem P583,150 paid by 11 trade fair organizations. It also collected P849,000 from 539 sidewalk vendors.

Tabanda said the collection report was "unacceptable."

"They will still need to explain how this happened in the first place. This (problem) cannot simply be swept under the rug," she said.

He acknowledged that the treasury accountability sheet did not appear to tally with the books of accounts of other departments.

Another councilor traced the confusion to payments made apparently to the city mayor's office which have yet to be reflected in the official treasury books of accounts.

A member of Vergara's party told the INQUIRER that the mayor was not aware of the trade fair commitments.

Vergara was unavailable for comment when the INQUIRER tried to reach him on Thursday.

But the council laid the blame squarely on Vergara on Wednesday.

"The ignorance of the mayor excuses no one . . . will excuse no one," said Councilor Delfin Balajadia Jr., who presided over the inquiry, during this week's regular council session. ***Jovelyn Reyes, with a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Casino plan at Paskuhan Village junked

BY TONETTE OREJAS AND JUN MALIG
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Christmas is over and so is the plan to put up a casino at the Philippine Christmas village here.

Swamped by strong opposition mainly from the Catholic Church, the provincial board on Monday junked the proposal.

Buckling also to pressure, board members Crisostomo Garbo and Ferdinand Labung withdrew their resolution endorsing the operation of the Casino Filipino at the 10-hectare Christmas park, also known as Paskuhan Village.

The park, managed by the Philippine Tourism Authority, is the third of its kind in the world after those in Germany and the United States. Year-round, it features Christmas activities.

"The plan is deferred," Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo said after he and nine board members, except for the absent board member Lilia Pineda, huddled for more than an hour to weigh the merits of arguments by the largely anti-casino crowd in Monday's public hearing at the capitol.

It was the first contentious issue that the eldest son of President Macapagal-Arroyo had hurdled since he assumed office last June.

So far, the strongest protest came from Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto.

In a letter read by Rev. Fr. Deo Galang during the hearing, Aniceto said: "The proposal to put up a casino . . . even for the purpose of raising government funds, does not represent the principles of genuine social development and moral advancement."

Aniceto said genuine and sustainable progress must be based on productivity and skills of Kapampangans and that "prosperity of individuals and government should be anchored not on luck or chance but on hard work and diligent industry."

Among those opposing the casino plan were Benedictine nuns, education officials and teachers in Pampanga, and members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Arroyo's deferment of the plan prompted board member Robert David, who was the lone protester in the 10-member board, to ask his colleagues to officially qualify its stance in writing.

David's request came on the heels of confusion over the term "defer."

"Defer means postpone, not cancel. While many in the board, including the vice governor, gave us the impression that the plan was really junked, I'd like that to be in writing to defeat the plan for good," he said.

David previously worked as administrator of the Lazatin estate where the Christmas park was built in 1990 by the late Gov. Bren Guiao.

The PTA and Jesus Lazatin, the land donor, have a memorandum of agreement restricting the use of the land solely for cultural and historical programs.

In junking the plan, Arroyo and his allies, Garbo and Labung, said they "heeded the clamor of the majority."

'Sinulog' festivities start today despite inadequate budget

BY DEBRA JANE MAGALLON
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Festivities of the "Sinulog 2002" will be launched today even as fund-raising efforts failed to meet its P7-million budget target.

Vice Mayor Michael Rama, overall chair of the Sinulog working committee, said only P5 million had been raised for the 10-day affair that will culminate with a grand parade on Jan. 20.

Of the amount, P2 million came from solicitations and P3 million from the city government.

Rama said more than half of the budget, or about P4.5 million, had been earmarked for cash prizes during the grand parade. Grand prize for the Sinulog-based category is P300,000 and P100,000 for the open category.

Close to 40 contingents have registered for the street-dancing contest on Jan. 20. They include those from Camiguin Island and Parañaque City.

Rama said close to P6 million was expected to be raised from the street fair, which started on the second week of December and will end after the festival.

But, he added, they would prefer to have the money now before the grand parade so the activities will run smoother.

About 25 stalls have been put up along Osmeña Boulevard near the downtown area, displaying various products, ranging from ready-to-wear clothes to food preserves. Each stall owner was charged P25,000 in rent.

Councilor Sylvan Jakosalem, committee chair on publicity and promotions committee for the festival, said the city had two options on how to raise the remaining P2 million.

One was to ask private companies to sponsor some of the activities while the other was for the city council to allocate P2 million to meet the shortfall.

The cash problem failed to dampen the festive spirit, with all systems go for today's launching.

A Mass, to be officiated by the Augustinian fathers, will be held at the pilgrim center of the Basilica del Santo at about 2:30 a.m.

This will be followed by a dance parade to be participated in by students from 12 schools.

Members of the Sinulog Foundation will also distribute envelopes containing unspecified amount of money as gifts to the candle vendors at the basilica.

The Sinulog Foundation, a private and non-profit organization, runs all the festivities, except for the religious activities. It is working closely with the city government.

Davao flood death toll up

MATI, Davao Oriental—Flash floods and landslides brought about by continuous heavy rains killed at least four people and damaged infrastructure facilities and agricultural property worth at least P30 million in the province.

Confirmed killed on Tuesday during a landslide in Caraga town was Jose Usnan, of Barangay Poblacion. Emmanuel Mangayon, of Barangay Sobrecarey, died when rampaging waters submerged his house, while his granddaughter has remained missing.

Earlier, a policeman of Baganga town, identified as SPO2 Fernando Ampog, died when a coconut tree fell on the vehicle he was driving.

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) said the floods damaged at least 10,000 hectares of agricultural land in the towns of Tarragona, Manay, Caraga, Baganga, Cateel and Boston.

Evelyn Vallar, council chief, urged the provincial government to immediately declare a state of calamity so that relief operations can start.

The PDCC said the floods severely affected at least 30,000 families and damaged about 3,000 houses.

Disaster officials said the newly opened Cateel-Compostela Valley road was impassable due to landslides in the area.

In Davao City, the body of one of the four missing victims of the Jan. 4 flash flood was fished out Tuesday morning in the coastal village of Ugpao, Sta. Maria, Davao del Sur.

The City Disaster Coordinating Council identified the victim as Rustico Quiza, 33, of Ulas, Manggahan, Talomo District.

Still missing and believed to have died were Maria Fe Joyce Sumbrio, Glenn Maquito and a certain Pansacala.

The other fatalities were identified as Gonzales Ansayod, Cristituta Pansacala, Suta Gumayas, Edward Satera and Mary Grace Ulario. ***Ferdinand O. Zuasola and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Lifetime Coverage	P500,000		P750,000		P1,000,000	
Accident Coverage	1,000,000		1,500,000		2,000,000	
Insurance Age	Annual Premium in Pesos	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium in Pesos	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium in Pesos	Self Support Year*
18	6,100	15	8,900	15	11,700	15
20	6,335	15	9,263	15	12,170	15
25	6,925	14	10,138	14	13,350	14
30	7,935	14	11,653	13	15,370	13
35	8,955	13	13,183	13	17,410	13
40	11,090	14	16,385	13	21,680	13
45	13,305	14	19,708	14	26,110	14
50	17,400	16	25,850	16	34,300	16
55	21,955	16	32,683	16	43,410	16

Note: Package includes Waiver of Premium (Female Rates) and Accident & Health (Twice Face Amount) riders

LIFE SHIELD DOLLAR 9/11

Lifetime Coverage	$10,000		$15,000		$25,000	
Insurance Age	Annual Premium in US Dollars	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium in US Dollars	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium in US Dollars	Self Support Year*
18	122.30	15	173.45	14	275.75	13
20	128.80	15	183.20	14	292.00	13
25	144.70	14	207.05	13	331.75	13
30	176.60	13	254.90	13	411.50	12
35	215.70	13	313.55	13	509.25	13
40	271.60	13	397.40	12	649.00	12
45	338.40	13	497.60	12	816.00	12
50	425.10	12	627.65	12	1,032.75	12
55	532.20	13	788.30	13	1,300.50	13

Note: Package includes the Waiver of Premium (Female Rates) rider.

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PROPOSED INSURED

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Aliases	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
Sex ○ Male ○ Female	Age	Height
Civil Status ○ Single ○ Married ○ Widow ○ Separated		Weight
Residence Address		Telephone No.
Business Address		Bus. Tel. No.
Specific Occupation and Duties		Annual Income

Relationship of Proposed Insured to Owner Payor *(if applicable)*
PRODUCT NAME ○ Life Shield 9/11 ○ Life Shield Dollar 9/11 ○ Life Protect 9/11
AMOUNT OF COVERAGE | RIDER *(if applicable)*
Beneficiary's Name | Age

OWNER / PAYOR

Surname	Given Name	Middle Name
Aliases	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
Sex ○ Male ○ Female	Age	Height
Civil Status ○ Single ○ Married ○ Widow ○ Separated		Weight
Residence Address		Telephone No.
Business Address		Bus. Tel. No.
Specific Occupation and Duties		Annual Income

MODE OF PAYMENT ○ Annual ○ Semi-annual ○ Quarterly ○ MSA/BPS ○ SMPDC
IN CASE OF PREMIUM DEFAULT ○ Premium Loan ○ Paid-up Insurance ○ Extended Term Insurance
Relationship to P.I. | Name of Trustee (if beneficiary is below 18)

QUESTIONS: (CHECK ANSWER FOR BOTH PROPOSED INSURED & OWNER/PAYOR)

	PROPOSED INSURED	OWNER / PAYOR
A. Has the Proposed Insured (PI) or Owner/Payor (O/P) ever been told that he has cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, heart trouble, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous disorder? (If "YES", underline which ailment or ailments).	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No
B. Does the PI or O/P have any abnormality or impairment in his health or physical condition?	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No
C. During the past 5 years, has the PI or O/P consulted any physician for medical treatment, or been confined in a hospital, clinic or similar institutions?	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No
D. Does the PI or O/P engage in motorcycle / motorboat / auto racing, sky diving, scuba diving or other hazardous avocations?	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No

For each "YES" answer to any of the questions above, please give full details in the space below. For questions A,B, & C, include physician's name and address, hospital, date and nature of consultation, sickness or impairment. Use an addendum form (FormGF7C) for additional answers and/or beneficiaries. Please don't forget to sign these additional forms.

PROPOSED INSURED OWNER / PAYOR

ENDORSEMENTS AND CHANGES (For Home Office use only)

I understand that all statements and answers contained herein and in any addendum annexed to this application, as well as those made to the Medical Examiner in Part II (if applicable) hereof are full, complete and true to the best of my knowledge and that any policy issued under this application **will not be in force until I have made the first premium payment during my lifetime and good health.** I also understand that Article 1250 of the Civil Code of the Philippines (R.A. 386) shall not apply to any payments made or to be made by either party to any policy issued under this application.

By purchasing this policy and signing below, I represent that I am not a U.S. person for purposes of U.S. federal income tax and that I am not acting for, or on behalf of, a U.S. person. If my tax status changes and I become a U.S. citizen or resident, I will notify Philamlife within thirty (30) days. (U.S. citizens or residents must strike out this clause and initial the changes at the left side.)

Proposed Insured's Signature ____
Owner's Signature ____
Signed at ____
Date Signed ____
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Agent's Code ____
Agent's Contact No. ____
APPLICATION NO. ____
DEPOSIT PAID ____ CR No. ____

Form No. GF - 150 - A

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(This form should be completed for each case)

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Signature of Proposed Insured Signature of Owner Signature of Legal Guardian Signature of Witness

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Bishops: Beware of 'Edsa IV' groups

(From page A1)

the different groups out to destabilize the government. Sometimes, these are front assemblies, pseudo peoples' congresses and assemblies, trying to say they are people power or they are in the movement for Edsa IV or V."

He urged the people to "discern what are their motives, who are their real leaders, who are the persons behind them."

The President herself is extending a hand of reconciliation to her critics.

She said yesterday that she was ready to dialogue with Salvador Enriquez Jr., chair of the PCA, which had accused her and her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo of corruption.

"For the sake of the upcoming celebration of Edsa II on Jan. 20, I will speak again to the Edsa forces for them to be a part of this government including those with feelings of rancor and resentment," the President said in Filipino during an interview with radio station dzRH. "I am willing to talk with Jun Enriquez and his group in the spirit of Edsa II."

Enriquez, who served as budget secretary of former President Fidel V. Ramos, recently accused the President of being too preoccupied with her supposed plan to run in the 2004 polls.

Montayre

PCA secretary general Linda Montayre has threatened to call for another people power uprising against the administration.

But Coronel said Montayre, whom he described as an "ex-RGS (Religious of the Good Shepherd) nun married to an ex-seminarian," did not represent the Church.

He said he also did not know the people Montayre was claiming to be "Church representatives" in the PCA. "They do not represent the mainstream position of the Catholic Church," he said.

Coronel warned the poor against allowing themselves to be used by "certain politicians" offering money to exploit their poverty.

"They use vast resources to buy the gathering of the masses," he said. "This is not the real and true people power."

The bishop also said the CBCP was aware of a "crisis" in governance. "But if there are any mistakes, we will work within the democratic process," and not through a military junta, to correct them, he said.

Manila Bishop Teodoro Bacani, however, expressed certainty that any coup attempt would fail because of the conflicting ambitions and interests of those calling for a change of leadership.

"I don't think it will succeed if people are ambitious. It has little chance of success," Bacani told reporters.

Besides, he said, he did not see "an eagerness for a coup," and "the people are not discontented."

Healing

The President said she wanted the celebration of the first-year anniversary of People Power II and of her assumption of power as a "period of reconciliation."

"When I became President, I said it was the time for healing," she said. "That is still what I want for our country: healing. That is why I'm appealing to all. If ever there are some feelings hurt, we can talk this out."

The President said her relations with some of the Edsa forces like the PCA might have been strained because of "shortcomings in communication."

"I'm ready to talk to all parties that have something to say on how our reforms should be given priority," she said.

In the same radio interview, Ms Macapagal warned that quarters engaged in destabilization activities or a plot for her violent overthrow would face the full force of the law once they commit overt acts of sedition.

"Once they move, we'll file cases against them," she declared. "It's sedition when they commit violent acts."

She also defended her administration against criticisms that it had not delivered on its main promise of alleviating poverty.

Asked to comment on Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's observation that the national situation was not ideal, the President said: "No one can say our situation is ideal.

"To begin with, we started with a government saddled with a huge budget deficit. We have a world economic slowdown, and there was that terrorist attack (in the United States last Sept. 11)."

She said the country should be thankful to God that it did not suffer the fate of other economies that nose-dived after Sept. 11.

"Our challenge, therefore, for 2001 was not to make the situation immediately ideal but to keep the country afloat despite all the adversities," she said.

2004

The President also appealed for a stop in speculations about her plans for the 2004 election.

"I don't know why all the people are talking about 2004. Me, I don't talk about it," she said.

Enriquez, a trusted lieutenant of Ramos, had accused her of putting her election over and above the country's interest.

A similar sentiment was expressed Wednesday by retired ex-Army chief Fortunato Abat, although he has since clarified that it was an "off-the-cuff statement."

"I'm for her," Abat said yesterday. "I did not mean much from that statement."

Abat also said Ms Macapagal deserved the full support of the country because "that is the only solution to the current situation which appears as if there is restiveness."

"The President is going around the country as part of her duties," he said.

Ms Macapagal said that because of the general fixation on 2004, her trips to the provinces were being misconstrued as part of her campaign for the 2004 election.

"How can a President know the actual situation on the ground when he or she doesn't go around?" she said.

At his regular briefing, Rigoberto Tiglao said an invitation would be extended to all Edsa forces for a dialogue with Ms Macapagal.

"The President isn't shutting the doors to their coming to that meeting," he said of Enriquez and Montayre.

But Ms Macapagal's spokesperson could not resist a jab at the two PCA officials whom he had earlier described as an "assembly of two."

"All groups," he said. "Not only the PCA. And we hope the PCA really appears there, and not only the assembly of two."

Tiglao also said the President was grateful to Cardinal Sin "for his incisive statement . . .(when he) pointed out that this administration 'has not really been given a chance to do its task for the people undisturbed.'"

He added that Sin had "very accurately pointed out that this administration has demonstrated its 'strength to maintain order against all odds.'"

Not lightly

Davao businessmen are urging the President not to take lightly any rumors regarding a possible attempt to overthrow her administration.

In a survey conducted by the Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. among its members, most of them said Ms Macapagal should not be indifferent to any coup plot.

"She should take the necessary actions before the issue balloons into a big controversy that might shake her administration," said the survey results that were divulged to the Davao media.

At least 70 percent of those who took part in the survey agreed that the President should find ways to solve the problems besetting the country and not just "let things pass."

All the respondents said the effect of the threats would mostly be negative as it would eventually reflect the instability of the government—a no-no in building investor confidence.

Romeo Serra, president of the group, said it made no difference whether the coup rumors were true or not because they would eventually affect the business environment.

"Since we are in a difficult situation, any more discussion regarding this will exacerbate the already difficult situation," Serra said.

He said the survey results also indicated that Davao businessmen were determined to reject any attempt to solicit their support to overthrow the administration.

Not the military

The military believes that there will be no revolt in the ranks of the Armed Forces.

According to AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, there are indeed reports of attempts to recruit military personnel for a plot.

But he said this was merely part of the "first phase" and could not be classified as recruiting for a coup attempt.

Adan made the remarks on Wednesday, when he was asked to comment on Col. Victor Corpus' allegation that there were attempts to recruit soldiers for a destabilization attempt.

"What (Corpus) meant was there were attempts to recruit, but they are not succeeding," Adan said, adding that what could have happened was that the military officials were merely asked if they had any gripes, with the recruiter hoping to exploit the situation.

"We don't call it recruitment for a coup when you are merely being asked about your sentiments," he added. "What we are saying is that there are reports that some officers were approached but that the offers were rejected."

Adan said all those reports had been studied and analyzed, and "the conclusion upstairs is that there would be no military revolt." ***With reports from Martin Marfil and Dona Z. Pazzibugan in Manila; Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Malacañang media group monitoring Erap forces

(From page A1)

main force as the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP), the same group that led the pro-Estrada mass actions at the Edsa Shrine that culminated in the Labor Day mob attack on Malacañang last May 1.

It said PMAP head Ronald Lumbao would preside over an "all-leaders' conference" in Nueva Ecija on Jan. 17-18 "in preparation for a planned mobilization on Jan. 19, the first Edsa II anniversary."

The report also said the distribution starting late last year of Estrada's video compact disc "Ama ng Masa" was intended "to once again agitate and psychologically prime the urban poor and other gullible elements of society for a destabilization move, possibly connected with the Jan. 19 mobilization."

It identified these areas as convergence points for the supposed mobilization: Bonifacio Circle in Manila; the Don Chino Roces Bridge leading to Malacañang; the Sandiganbayan where the Estrada plunder cases are being heard; the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where Estrada and son Jinggoy are being held; the Edsa Shrine; and the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

Different version

Asked to confirm this supposed plan, a ranking military source offered a slightly different version.

"Their plan is to once again converge at the Edsa Shrine," the officer said. "Once they are there, armed elements who have previously undergone paramilitary training will try to provoke the Armed Forces. Their immediate objective will be to produce 'martyrs' for their cause and hopefully make a re-run of Edsa Tres."

It was earlier reported that members of the so-called Urban Poor Liberation Front were undertaking paramilitary training in Bulacan.

The report received by the Palace's "communication group" noted two supposedly similar training camps in Cavite and Laguna.

It said those being trained were supposed members of the Guardians Brotherhood Inc., a group identified with Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

INQUIRER sources privy to the meeting said it was decided, among others, that the government would intensify its grassroots campaign to neutralize the Estrada leaders' continued agitation of the poor.

A source said Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman had been appointed lead official to "establish closer links with the urban poor."

The source also said that because Estrada diehards might attempt to sow chaos during the government-led commemoration of People Power II, Malacañang had decided against having a large gathering on Jan. 20. Instead, it has called for celebrations and Masses in various urban poor areas in Metro Manila.

Delusions

At his regular briefing, Tiglao said that while there might be a flurry of intelligence reports on coup and destabilization plots, "our military forces assure us that these are simply delusions of a power grab."

"If ever they make a move to violate our laws, they will be crushed in a few hours' time," he said. "And this time around the gloves will be off."

Tiglao noted that one intelligence report even pointed out that "the newest racket in town is the coup plot."

He said certain parties were soliciting money from political circles purportedly to mobilize forces of destabilization to the tune of P2,000 per demonstrator per day.

"Those swindled are now very angry, and they're asking these people for auditing," he said.

Marines

The Marines guarding the Senate will be moved out and deployed to beef up security in Malacañang, and the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police will take over its duties at the chamber.

Tiglao confirmed the troop movement but said it was an "ordinary" exercise because a new commander was set to take over the elite Presidential Security Group (PSG).

"When there is a change in PSG commanders, there's also a rotation of troops," he said. "As you know guarding Malacañang is not an exciting assignment."

Col. Hermogenes Esperon, current commander of the Army's Basilan-based 103rd Brigade, is set to assume command over the PSG.

The President earlier designated Esperon's predecessor, Brig. Gen. Glen Rabonza, as her senior military aide, a post previously held by Brig. Gen. Alberto Braganza.

In turn, Braganza had been appointed commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, which is based in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

Leonardo Lopez, Senate sergeant-at-arms, said they were still awaiting orders from the Armed Forces' General Headquarters for the transfer of the Marines.

Lopez said he did not know where the Marines would be deployed.

The other day, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said Task Force Libra, the government's anti-coup contingent, had been put on standby for the People Power II celebrations.

Politics hurting El Shaddai

(From page A1)

ousted President Joseph Estrada. Velarde had served as Estrada's spiritual adviser.

The El Shaddai founder, along with the Iglesia ni Cristo, reportedly provided the warm bodies for the rallies of Estrada's supporters at the Edsa Shrine that culminated in the assault on Malacañang on May 1, 2001.

The charismatic movement is again reportedly being courted by groups seeking to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

But Velarde denied engaging in politics. He decried reports linking El Shaddai to alleged efforts to stage a People Power IV uprising.

"At this point, we would like to inform the public that the El Shaddai Charismatic movement never got involved in any power struggle in the past. And we will never ever get involved in any such activity now and in the future," he said in a statement.

Velarde, who was courted by politicians in past elections, was also known to have supported certain administration and opposition senatorial candidates in the May 2001 elections.

Coronel said Velarde's flock no longer finds such politicking acceptable.

"The way we understand it from priest-formators of El Shaddai, the flock wants the movement to concentrate on religious matters," he said.

"They do not want to be used in political matters. There's a clamor among El Shaddai members for the movement to stress more on political matters, according to Fr. Anton Pascual (a priest-formator)," Coronel said.

Coronel declined to say what those political matters were. He only smiled when asked whether he was referring to Velarde's association with Estrada.

Mel Robles, spokesperson for El Shaddai, denied that there was a decrease in the number of the group's 7 million to 10 million members.

He said he certainly did not notice a drop in attendance in the weekly prayer meeting on Roxas Boulevard, which, according to him, was attended by 100,000 to 200,000 people.

"We have not receive any report about this," Robles said.

But Coronel noted that rallies of El Shaddai at the Rizal Park in Manila used to attract huge crowds, many of whom parked their jeepneys on Roxas Boulevard that backed up to the Cultural Center. But now the line of jeepneys only reach the United States Embassy, a stone's throw from the park, according to Coronel.

Like Velarde, Robles said El Shaddai had "never been used or (had) never engaged in political matters."

He belied reports that Velarde was eyeing a Senate seat in the next election, saying that Velarde's recent statement that he "will be there in 2004 to support" was just a joke.

GMA gives FVR another VIP role

(From page A1)

former President Corazon Aquino, Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr., and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., to represent the opposition—will reportedly advise her on "matters of national importance."

In a radio interview held before she left for Abra and Ilocos Sur yesterday morning, the President said she had "revived" the council to recognize the "key role" that Ramos had been playing in her administration "from the start."

She said her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, also had a Council of State during his term.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, later said she was reaching out to both her allies and the opposition.

"It's part of her efforts (to forge) unity at this time," he said. "We need to convince all sectors to help us help the poorest. And (the council) would be a good venue for recruiting their help and even getting ideas from them."

Tiglao also said that in the past, the President only got to discuss matters with Ramos during cocktails.

"The impact is different if there is a particular forum that is official," he added.

Shortly after assuming office last Jan. 20, Ms Macapagal named Ramos her "special envoy" in international fora.

As former President, Ramos also sits in the National Security Council, an advisory body that includes some Cabinet members and legislators.

Relations between the two leaders became strained lately because of Ramos' supposed plan to seek reelection.

Despite his denials, Ramos is consistently linked to destabilization plots against the government.

But Ms Macapagal yesterday claimed that she continued to seek his advice, particularly on security issues, because of his past stints as military chief and defense secretary.

She even pointed out that some members of her staff and Cabinet were associated with the ex-President—her chief of staff, Renato Corona, who was his deputy executive secretary; Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, who is his nephew; and Guingona, who was his executive secretary and justice secretary.

Ms Macapagal said the Council would meet regularly, probably over lunch, but with no specific agenda.

Koizumi's next stop: Kuala Lumpur

(From page A1)

Analysts said Koizumi's Southeast Asian tour was aimed at boosting Japan's profile in the region after China forged an agreement last December with the 10 Asean members to establish a free trade area within 10 years.

Japan has been having a hard time cementing free trade agreements (FTA), partly because of the strong domestic farm lobby's demands for protection. But it has forged a free trade agreement with Singapore, which has no rural sector.

The Japan-Singapore FTA, which is expected to be signed when Koizumi goes to the city-state to round off his whirlwind visit to the five leading Asean members, has been criticized by Malaysia, which believes bilateral agreements could undercut the Asean Free Trade Agreement (Afta), which kicked off on Jan. 1.

But Japan believes that FTA with Singapore could be the springboard for more cooperation with other Asean members.

During Koizumi's visit, Ms Macapagal also sought Japan's help in developing poor Muslim areas in Mindanao, stressing that eradicating poverty was an important component in the fight against terrorism.

"We shared the view that the fight against terrorism is interlinked with the fight against poverty," Ms Macapagal said.

It was not clear how Koizumi responded. But National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, who attended the meeting, expressed optimism there would be more Japanese involvement in the development of Mindanao, scene of decades of bloody Moro separatist uprisings.

A senior Japanese official traveling with Koizumi indicated that Japan was willing to help, telling reporters on condition of anonymity that Tokyo "cannot afford to be indifferent."

The US military is providing weaponry and military training to help Philippine troops crush the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, which has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

During her meeting with Koizumi, Ms Macapagal said she welcomed Japan's strong support for the global war against terrorism and explained an agreement by the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia on information exchange in fighting crime and terrorism. The three Southeast Asian neighbors face growing Muslim extremist violence.

The talks between Ms Macapagal and Koizumi, however, did not cover the issue of wartime sex slavery.

Security for Koizumi's visit was heavy as several groups hounded him with small but noisy protests centering on demands by several Filipino women forced into sexual slavery by Japan's imperial army during World War II for compensation and an apology.

While Tokyo has acknowledged that sexual enslavement existed, it has insisted that postwar peace treaties settled all outstanding issues and that international law did not require damages to be paid.

As Koizumi laid a wreath at the Rizal monument in Luneta, several of the protesting elderly women tried to approach Koizumi but were forced back by riot police.

"Many of us have died and many are ill, including me," said 78-year-old Atanacia Cortes. "If we could not talk to him, we just want him to realize that we're here."

In a state dinner hosted by Ms Macapagal on Wednesday evening, Koizumi expressed his "heartfelt appreciation" for the warm Philippine reception. ***Reports from Norman Bordadora, AP, AFP and Reuters***

Senator RAUL
ROCO
2001

POSTER boy looks good but suspicious teachers believe it's a bad thing that the education secretary is already campaigning. ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

Posters educational . . .

(From page A1)

know who heads the department today.

Roco said no less than Commission on Audit Chair Guillermo Carague had told him that there was nothing wrong with the production and release of the posters.

The glossy posters show a smiling Roco garbed in crisp white *barong* with the Philippine flag as backdrop and his designation as DepEd secretary printed at the bottom. His vision for Filipino schoolchildren, "*Bawat graduate, bayani at marangal* (Each graduate, heroic and upright)," is printed on the upper left-hand corner. On the opposite side is the DepEd seal.

Leaders of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers the other day questioned the DepEd's allocation of P1.4 million for the printing of 350,000 copies of the Roco posters and said it was probably a part of his reported bid for the 2004 presidential election.

But Roco said his department was spending considerably less than other government agencies for information and awareness campaigns for agency heads. Other department heads were even making costly television advertisements, he noted.

He said the posters were part of the campaign to inform the public about the new government, and pointed out that his instruction to DepEd offices and public schools was to display not only his poster but also that of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In his memorandum dated May 7, 2001, Roco noted that pictures of former President Joseph Estrada and former Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez were still "conspicuously displayed" in DepEd offices, schools and classrooms.

"All DECS (the DepEd was then the Department of Education, Culture and Sports) offices and public schools are hereby directed to replace the aforesaid pictures with those of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and DECS Secretary Raul S. Roco. Photographs of the President are currently being delivered to the DECS field offices and public schools while those of the DECS secretary will be sent shortly," said the memorandum.

The education department started distributing the first batch of 200,000 posters in July. DepEd later ordered 150,000 more copies. DepEd paid a total of P1.144 million.

It was Flerida A. Jimenez, COA's resident auditor at DepEd, who first questioned the government funds spent on the posters saying this was an "unnecessary expenditure."

But in its comment to the COA audit observations, DepEd said it had "a duty to inform the organization, its constituents and the public of the head of agency and his vision."

"There is a need to familiarize the community and the students particularly in far-flung areas, of the sudden change in administration. It is not uncommon for students in many regions not to know the Secretary of Education and even the President of the Philippines," it said.

DepEd added that the Roco posters not only "created awareness" but also sought "to bring the various school stakeholders—the students, the teachers and the community—closer to the head of the agency and the central management."

In fact, DepEd said, line officials had been repeatedly requesting for the posters, and teachers were reportedly buying pictures of Roco from outside sources so these could be posted in their classrooms.

Roco said he was told that some of his pictures, taken when he was still a senator, were being sold in Divisoria for P25 each.

"We got ours so cheap. This poster will show who the head of the Department of Education is. They will know that the secretary is no longer riding an Expedition," Roco said, taking a jab at Gonzalez who got embroiled in a controversy involving luxury cars.

DepEd said the funds used for the posters were not taken from the funds to be used for budgeted items like textbooks or desks.

Roco also defended the hiring of 11 consultants by his office, saying they report to work from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and stay even longer later if there was much work to do. He said the consultants were given higher salaries because they did not have benefits like regular government employees.

FEDEX SUFFERS BIG BLOW

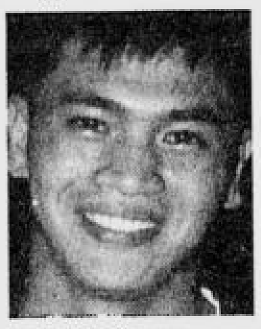
Adducul to miss PBA Draft

READY FOR HINGIS

Kim Clijsters of Belgium executes a forehand during her match against Justine Henin, also of Belgium, at the Sydney netfest yesterday. Clijsters won, 7-6, 6-2, and will meet Martina Hingis today. AP

By June Navarro

ROMMEL Adducul's dream of becoming this year's top overall pick hit a snag yesterday after he failed to produce his release papers from the MBA and his team, the Batangas Blades.



ADDUCUL

Adducul's deadline to do it was yesterday.

The PBA Annual Rookie Draft is set for Sunday, Jan. 13.

Adducul got his release papers from the ABS-CBN but not from the Metropolitan Regional Basketball Incorporated (MRBI) and the Batangas Blades management.

Adducul still has a two-year live contract with MRBI and the Blades, which own two-thirds of the 6-foot-6 center's contract; the remainder was owned by ABS-CBN.

Adducul's ill-fated trip to the PBA was a big blow for FedEx, which will pick first on Sunday. It had openly declared it would pick Adducul.

The PBA will release the final list of qualified rookie draft applicants today, with almost half of the 81 aspirants set to be expelled for their failure to secure clearances from the Department of Justice.

Only six out of the 17 Fil-foreign applicants got the green light from the DOJ. Draft favorites Cris Clay, Mike Cortez and Jeffrey Flowers failed to get their DOJ papers. FedEx said it might hire Clay as an import.

Former MBA standout Rafi Reavis, PBL's Ken Gumpenberger and Fil-American's Sunny Boy Margate, Jason Henkey, Tom Arceño and Francis Raushmayer got their DOJ papers.

Allado: P10.8-M contract; Coke gets Cariaso, Abuda

DON Allado will become one of Alaska's cornerstones in the next three years after the 6-foot-6 slotman secured a three-year deal worth at least P10.8 million.

The 24-year-old Allado renewed his contract with Alaska after failing to seize a better deal from other teams.

"But to tell you frankly, Allado got a very good contract from Alaska. In the next three years, he will combine forces with Ali Peek inside the paint," said Alaska team manager Joaqui Trillo.

The INQUIRER learned that Allado was interested in donning the Red Bull Thunder, but transactions bogged down after his manager "asked for the moon."

Meanwhile, the Lina Group of Companies shipped Freddie Abuda and Jeffrey Cariaso to the Coca Cola Tigers for its No. 8 pick in the first round of the rookie draft on Sunday.

The exchange will also give the Bert Lina-owned firm the Tigers' second round draft rights next year.

June Navarro

Naga joins fray; Dayrit for Manila

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NAGA City has joined the race to host the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, bringing the total number of bidders to six cities/provinces.

But here's a damper to the bidders: The Philippine Olympic Committee said yesterday it still favored Manila to be the Games' main hub of activities.

The six bidders are Pampanga, Cebu City, Bacolod-Iloilo, Baguio and North Cotabato.

POC president Celso Dayrit said Manila is the Games's nerve center in a guideline drafted for the hosting of the event, which the country hosted in 1981 and 1991.

Dayrit said Manila has better facilities to stage the Games than the bidders, stressing that 4,000 foreign athletes and officials need the best accommodation, communication and transportation facilities during the two-week meet.

The bidders countered that Manila is already congested and maintained that the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex has become obsolete.

Dayrit said he would bring in virtually the same team that handled the 1991 SEA Games.

He said the POC can change its mind only "if a bidder can convince us Manila is not fit anymore to host Games."

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1987, Nina Castillejo beat Jennifer Saberon, 6-4, 6-1, to claim the 1st Dr. Pablo Olivarez Cup ladies singles title at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque. Also today in 1997, Wack Wack scored a six-stroke victory over Negros Occidental Golf & Country Club in the 9th Uratex Caddies Golf Championship at Capitol Hills.

Welcoat whips Blu; Montaña shines

By Dennis Eroa

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark	8	4
ICTSI	8	4
Welcoat	8	5
Blu	7	6
Kutitap	7	6
Ateneo	4	8
Ana	4	8
Montaña	4	9

GAMES TOMORROW
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs Shark
4 p.m.—ICTSI vs Ana

WELCOAT rode on the hot hands of Ren Ren Ritualo to whip Blu Detergent Kings, 76-59, and bolster its bid for an automatic semifinal berth in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Ritualo, picked for the second straight year as top amateur basketball player by the Philippine Sportswriters Association, escaped with 19 points as he combined with Jojo Manalo in Welcoat's searing second half breakaway against Blu, which played disorganized basketball most of the way.

It was the Paintmasters' eighth win against five losses and set up a crucial encounter against International Container Terminal Services-La Salle on Jan. 15, the penultimate day of the eliminations.

Defending Shark and ICTSI-La Salle share the leadership with identical 8-4 cards. The top two teams after the double-round elimination series will gain semifinal berths and the twice-to-beat advantages.

In the curtain-raiser, Montaña Jewels clamped down on defense as it shocked Ateneo-Pioneer, 80-76, keeping its quarterfinal hopes alive. The Jewels are now 4-9, while the Insurers dropped to 4-8, same slate of the Ana Freezer Kings.

First game:

MONTAÑA 80—Goltenbos 23, Misola 13, David 13, Alfad 10, Mesina 6, Lao 5, Macapagal 3, Zamora 3, Lim 2, Dimaunahan 2, Gatumbato 0.

ATENEO-PIONEER 76—Avenido 23, Sison B. 13, Mamaril 11, Noble 9, Ferrer 5, Alvarez 4, Villanueva 4, Fonacier 3, Sison 2, Bugia 2, Cruz 0.

Quarters: 17-22, 32-44, 59-53, 80-76.

Second game:

WELCOAT 76—Ritualo 19, De Ocampo 14, Manalo 11, Patrimonio 8, Tan 8, Mamaclay 4, Encarnacion 4, Orfrecio 4, Cruz 0.

BLU 59—Gumalay 10, Legaspi 9, Bacani 8, Billones 7, Codamon 6, Sanz 5, Santos 4, De la Cuesta 4, Epondulan 3, Calo 3, Prior 0, Roldan 0, Kalaw 0, Quiambao 0.

Quarters: 23-14, 36-28, 48-37, 76-59.

Tanpinco virtual golf champ; Tecson struggling at W'Wack

JR Tanpinco, finally getting his rhythm back after two days of struggle, shot a one over par 73 yesterday to virtually retain the Special Division crown in the fifth Philippine International Junior Golf Championship.

And Tanpinco's sister Anya, 18, shot an 80 despite playing the last eight holes with a swollen left hand as a result of a bee-sting to wrest the girls' Special Division lead by two with 171.

But compatriot Jenz Tecson continued to struggle as he came out with an 84 to go with his earlier rounds of 79 and 82 for 245 and lost his share of the Class A lead.

The annual tournament is organized by the Philippine Junior Golf Federation led by its president Boy Cantada and hosted by Wack Wack headed by its president, Ben Abalos.

Cebu Pacific, Herma Group of Companies, Milo and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation are the major sponsors of this year's championship.

Tanpinco, 20, and one of Bacolod City's top players, toured the par 72, 6,674-yard (from the blue tees) Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's East course with nines of 36 and 37 on three birdies and four bogeys.

Together with his earlier efforts of 75 and 77, he has 225 and will start today's final 18 holes with a comfortable eight-shot lead over closest rival Tepphatud Sanawong.

"Tomorrow, I will just play my usual game, that's for sure," said Tanpinco.

Sanawong, who started the round in second place but five shots behind Tanpinco, could do no better than a 76 to lose further ground in the division limited to players who are 18-21 years old.

With Tecson playing his worst round so far, South Korea's Kim Do Hyung shot a 76 and Panuwat Muenlek of Thailand carded an 81 to tie for the Class A lead with 242.

ROMY HOMILLADA

TECSON: Needs a big rally today.

Tiger 6 strokes behind

PARAPARAUMU BEACH, New Zealand —So much for local knowledge. When Tiger Woods agreed to come to the New Zealand Open, it was partly as a favor to his Kiwi caddie, Steve Williams, who grew up playing on the Paraparaumu Beach links course which is hosting this year's tournament. But Woods had trouble on the greens all day Thursday during his first round, shooting a 1-under par 70 that left him six shots behind leader Australian Scott Gardiner, who eagled the 18th to finish with a 64 on the par-71, 6,052-meter (6,618-yard) Paraparaumu Beach layout. "I have the guy who's been around here most on my bag and we're both trying to read them," Woods said of his putting problems. "They're a bit on the wavy side. You hit good putts and they veer off at the end. It makes you a bit indecisive. I hit the ball well, I just didn't make any putts."

Architects Classic shown Saturday

THE TV coverage of the 10th Annual Architects' Golf Classic will be shown on Saturday, Jan. 12, on SBN 21 (Skycable 72) from 7 to 8 p.m.

Architect Elmer Santos won the event with a net 41 in the Stableford format. Other top participants are division winners Jimmy Zapanta, Tristan Calixto, Francis Santaromana, Ramon Mendoza, Donna Leveriza, Nelson Lim, Marty Ilagan and Sarah Jane Esquerra.

The 10th Architects' Golf Classic was supported by Boysen Paints, Delta Faucet Company, Puyat Vinyl Tiles, Puyat Steel Corp., Kenzai Tiles from Urban Hardware, Asahi Glass Phils., Futura Décor Products, Crown Asia Compounders, Digital Cinema In Style, Expert Interior Products, The House of Precast, Jardine Schindler Elevator, Julant Pest Control, Maramax Lighthouse, Master Sports and Solahart of Gopez Corp., Otis Elevator Co. Phils., Samitrade Inc., Emerald Vinyl Corp., Jackbilt Industries, Moduclasse, New Golden City Builders, Phil. ABS Systems Int'l, Philflex Wires & Cable, Stainless Steel Industries and Suria Signs Inc.

Abap gains Caltex support

THE AMATEUR Boxing Association of the Philippines got a shot in the arm yesterday when Caltex Philippines Inc. renewed its sponsorship of the national boxing team for three years.

In a memorandum of agreement signed by Caltex Philippines, Inc. president Nicholas C. Florio and Abap head Manny T. Lopez, the petrol company will fund the training and participation to international tournaments of the national boxing squad, also known as Team Caltex Philippines.

The Caltex support will involve P11 million for a three-year program that will include the country's stints in the Busan Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games in 2003.

"This is a momentous development in the country's boxing development program," said Lopez.

Caltex, cited by the prestigious Philippine Sportswriters Association for its contributions to Philippine sports, is the first multinational firm to commit its support to a national sports association this year.

Caltex has been a partner of the Abap since 1997 and the partnership has resulted in numerous championships in international competitions like the 1999 and 2001 World Championships.

SPORTSWATCH

Mamawal: Andrada railroading poll results

WINNERS in the regional vice presidential elections in tennis filed a formal protest yesterday with the Philippine Olympic Committee, accusing Philta president Salvador Andrada of allegedly delaying the announcement of their victory. Children's Tennis Workshop director Giovanni Mamawal addressed the complaint to POC president Celso Dayrit in behalf of the 13 regional vice presidents who won during the recently concluded elections. Mamawal, whose father Fraz won as VP in Region III, said Andrada accused their group of fabricating the elections and branded the winning candidates as "ghost candidates."

Arcilla, Cuarto seek semifinal berths

TOP seed Joseph Arcilla and second pick Christian Cuarto shoot for semifinal berths in the boys' 18-under division when the 13th Andrada Cup Age Group Championships resumes today at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Arcilla battles Mark Louie Jorolan while Cuarto takes on sixth seed Boris Jan Chavez of Letran at 1 p.m. Also seeing action are third seed Gino Bautista against No. 5 Dino Ferrari at 3 p.m. and fourth seed Allan Agulto against No. 8 Miguel Narvaez at 2 p.m. The winners will receive 120 points in this Group 2 event held in honor of Philta president Salvador Andrada.

'Cold' Bryant, Shaq key Lakers victory

INDIANAPOLIS—Kobe Bryant scored 31 points and Shaquille O'Neal added 20 to lead Los Angeles past Indiana, 109-90. The Lakers won their sixth consecutive game, while the Pacers missed an opportunity to win their third in succession. Indiana hasn't won three in consecutive games since Nov. 10. Bryant was not at his best, missing two dunks and six free throws in 14 attempts, and O'Neal spent much of the night in foul trouble. O'Neal sat out the entire fourth quarter, and Bryant played sparingly. **COMPLETE RESULTS:** San Antonio 93, Boston 90; Charlotte 111, Atlanta 87; L.A. Lakers 109, Indiana 90; Orlando 102, Philadelphia 91; Minnesota 111, Seattle 106; Toronto 85, Chicago 73. *AP*

P.3 million staked in 4-cocker tonight

COCKERS from Laguna, Batangas Cavite, Rizal, Bulacan and Metro Manila collide in another special 4-cock derby at 7 tonight at the Pasay City Cockpit. Sagupaan Super Feeds and Hammer Dewormer are derby sponsors. At stake is a whopping cash prize of P300,000, according to derby host Boy Valdez (Exnider). Entry fee is P10,000. Submission of weights is today, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746. Meanwhile, the first offering of the newly formed Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) will blast off on Jan. 18 with Cito Manansala, Madison Go and Dindo and Mon Torres as hosts. Also, an average of 65 fights per day are held at PCC during regular hackfights every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Togsi's Ambition 2. Dynasouls 3. Pinagpala 4. Dancing Klara

Race 2—1. Favorite Trick 2. Bidang Bida 3. Mrs. Big 4. All Smiles

Race 3—1. Armee's Hope 2. Gossip Column 3. Test Run 4. Jackpot 5. Snowy Lane

Race 4—1. Bold Freddy 2. Fortius/Vice Consul 3. Dragon Doding 4. Triple Joy 5. King Cobra

Race 5—1. Terrific 2. Tigra 3. El Condor 4. High Pocket

Race 6—1. Bardagul 2. Picardy 3. Cardinal Rule 4. Perry's Will 5. Time Essential

Race 7—1. Kontra Todo 2. Dedicated 3. Come N Go 4. Chocolate Moose 5. Tour de Force

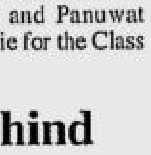
Race 8—1. Rain Check 2. Steel Wheel 3. Hinobaan's Pride 4. True to Life 5. Norma's Pet

Race 9—1. Precious Moment 2. Hotrod 3. Sure to Glow 4. Bull Dancing 5. Cara Bambina

Race 10—1. Romario/Always 2. Dear Elane 3. Let Me Pass 4. Super Dancer 5. Expediter 6. Sand Splash

Bata, Photokina, atbp.

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

WORLD billiards champion Efren "Bata" Reyes, the man they call "The Magician," will receive tonight this year's PSA Athlete of the Year award, his second since 1999. But would you believe that the 47-year-old Reyes, considered the finest pool player on the planet today, started as a nobody way back in 1985, using the name Cesar Morales when he launched his string of stirring successes in the United States on a tourist visa? As early as 1978, American book author and billiards guru John Grissim warned his compatriots "of players in the Orient who would kill "you guys" in the game of 9-ball."

"Come on, John," they told Grissim, mocking the seriousness of his warning, "we know all the best players in the Orient are Japanese and we've seen them play." When Grissim said he meant the Philippines, they all laughed at him, saying he must be crazy.

In 1985, the Americans stopped laughing. Then 30, Bata Reyes (who played under the name Cesar Morales) demolished American hotshot Wade Crane, 12-7, in the finals of the 96-man Red's 9-Ball International Open in Houston, Texas, winning his first major international title in only his second crack at 9-ball, a game that was not very popular then in the Philippines.

"Back then, rotation was my favorite game," said Bata Reyes, a school dropout who became the most dominant pool player starting in 1985 when he was bankrolled by brothers Popit and Putch Puyat. "But in my profession, I have to be equally adept in all games." He did excel in the various disciplines of billiards chiefly because he has all the requisite gifts: God-given ability, flawless strokes—smooth and straight as a ruler—and killer safeties. Bata is also generous to a fault and much admired for his pleasant demeanor, not to mention that he is a thinking player.

"I think a lot about my opponent," he stressed. "I always study his game, determining his weaknesses by studying his shots. I am still a student of the game."

PHOTOKINA ON A ROLL. This will be the Age of Optimism for Batang Red Bull, the defending champion in the season-opening PBA Commissioner's Cup on Feb. 10 because of the expected return to the Thunder lineup of last year's Best Import Antonio Lang and the acquisition of new talents from the draft this Sunday at the Glorietta. Cheers to coach Yeng Guiao and team owner George Chua. In the business front, Sir George is also upbeat over a recent Quezon court resolution, ordering the Commission on Elections chaired by Alfred Benipayo to honor its P6.5-billion contract with Photokina Marketing Corp. where low-key George is a top honcho. It's high time, if I may add. In her seven-page resolution, Judge Luisa Quijano-Padilla of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court upheld the validity of the Photokina contract for the Voters Registration and Identification System (VRIS) project awarded to the firm some two years ago, saying Photokina has a "perfected contract" with the Comelec for the VRIS which is being "threatened" by certain pronouncements of Benipayo. The court also barred the Comelec from proceeding with an alternative program to the VRIS, intended to modernize via computerization the country's electoral process.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Astros get Wagner for $27M

HOUSTON —Billy Wagner agreed to a $27 million, three-year contract with the Houston Astros that makes him among the highest-paid relievers in baseball. Wagner gets $8 million in each of the next three seasons. Houston has a $9 million club option for 2005 with a $3 million buyout. Talks had broken down last month when Wagner sought to have the fourth year of the contract guaranteed. *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA - Portland Trailblazers vs Miami Heat at 8:30 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN

US NCAA - Memphis vs TCU at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

GOLF: PGA Tour - Year in Review 2001 at 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Inside the PGA Tour at 11 a.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

US Open Official Films - 1997 at 5 p.m. on ESPN

APGA Opportunity Tour 2001 Highlights at 7:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

PSA honors top athletes tonight

Tiglao to deliver keynote speech

THE PHILIPPINE Sportswriters Association honors tonight the year 2001's top sports achievers whose exploits, many hope, will further spur the rest of the Filipino athletes in their continuing quest for excellence and recognition here and abroad.

Presidential spokesman Rigoberto Tiglao will deliver the keynote speech for President Arroyo, who begged off to honor a previous out-of-town commitment.

Still, the Chief Executive extends her greetings and congratulations to the awardees and those who, in one way or the other, have helped raise the Filipino athletes' level of play both in local and the world sporting arena.

The PSA Annual Awards Night is set to start at 7 p.m. at the Coral Ballroom of the Holiday Inn hotel with billiards king Efren "Bata" Reyes and golfer Dorothy Joy Delasin sharing the Athlete of the Year award by virtue of their outstanding feats in their respective disciplines last year.

The event, hosted by Noli Eala and Chiqui Roa-Puno, will be covered by Viva Vintage Television.

Reyes, widely regarded as the greatest pool player who ever lived, was the Athlete of the Year awardee in 1999, the year he ruled the world 9-ball championship in Cardiff, Wales. He decided to skip a tournament in Pennsylvania to personally receive the award tonight.

Delasin, 21, was the PSA's unanimous choice as the top athlete in 2000 for her stirring victory on the LPGA Tour on her rookie year and her exploits last year, including a victory over the world's top 20 players in the Samsung Championship, netted her another recognition from the country's sportswriting fraternity.

The country's top sports and government officials will grace the star-studded affair, sponsored by Photokina Marketing and Red Bull with support from the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and sportsman Hermi Esguerra. They include Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, PSC chair Carlos Tuason, Games, Amusements Board chief Eduardo Villanueva, Rep. Monico Puentevella, chair of the House committee on youth and sports, and Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, commanding general of the Philippine Air Force.

REYES

The Plaques of Recognition will be awarded to former sportswriters Alejandro "Andy" Del Rosario and Gov. Emmanuel Piñol for their outstanding performance in journalism and government service, while eight sports personalities who passed away during the year will be conferred posthumous awards.

The PSA will then give special citations to eight entities and firms—PSC, Shell, Petron, Caltex, Holiday Inn, Photokina Marketing, Agfa and Coca Cola—in recognition of their contribution to Philippine sports through their sponsorships and involvement in sports events.

After the entertainment number, the PSA will hand out the major awards to eight sports personalities then to the Co-Athlete of the Year awardees before PSA president and Star sports editor Lito A. Tacujan introduce the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

Others gracing the event are sports commissioners William Ramirez, Richie Garcia, Amparo Lim and Cynthia Carrion, as well as the country's top basketball officials, led by PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino and PBA chair Iggy Yenko, MBA chief Butch Antonio, PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad and PBL chair Dioceldo Sy. The presidents of the various national sports associations (NSAs) as well as members of the corporate community are also expected to grace the affair.

The complete list of awardees:

Co-Athletes of the Year—Efren "Bata" Reyes and Dorothy Joy Delasin

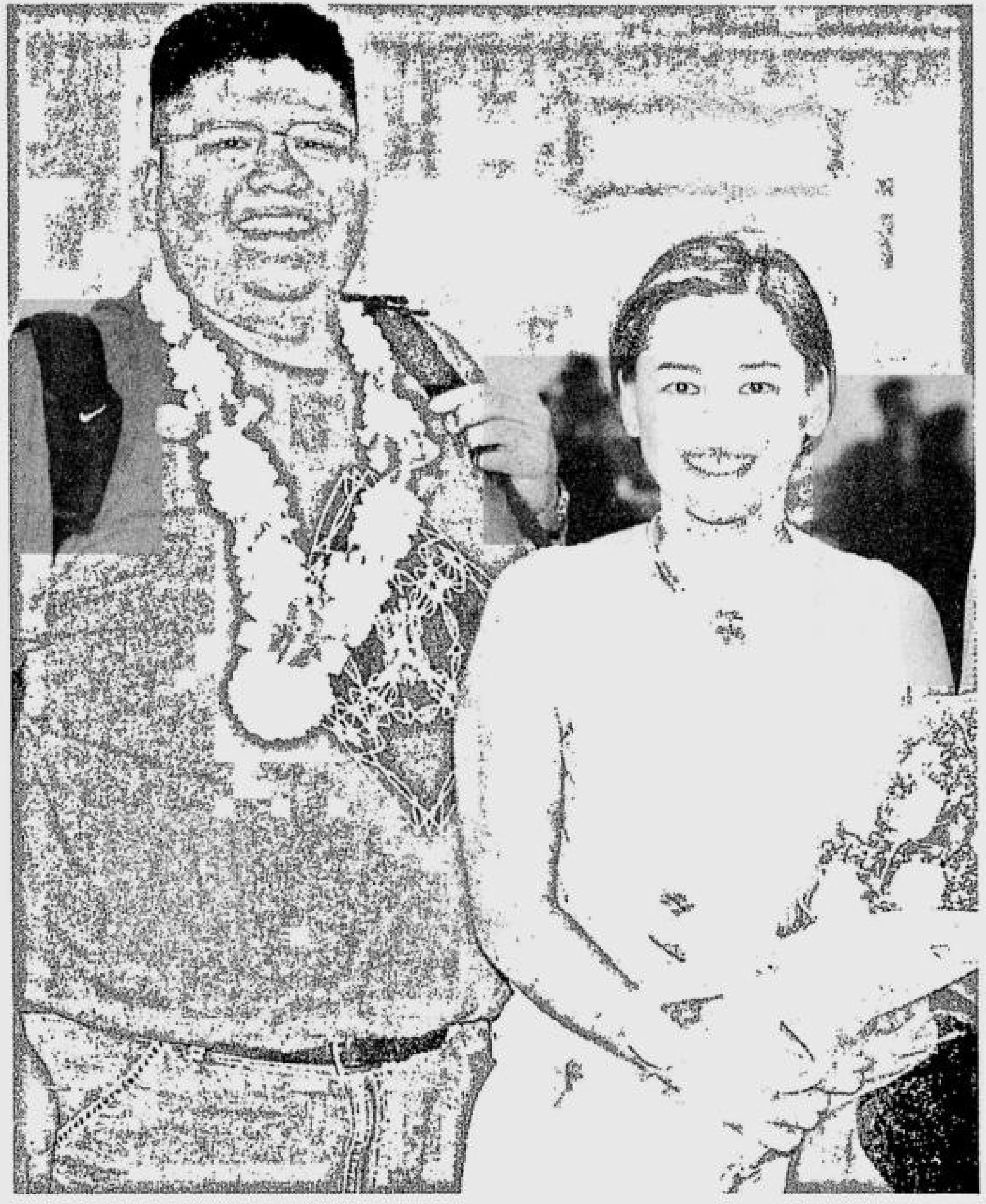
Major awardees—Danny Ildefonso (pro basketball), Ren Ren Ritualo (amateur basketball), Manny Pacquiao (boxing), Eduardo Buenavista (track and field), Liza del Rosario (bowling), Frankie Minoza (golf), Pat Dilema (horseracing, jockey of the year), and Wind Blown (horse of the year).

Citations—Athletics (Ernie Candelario, Fidel Gallenero, Dandy Gallenero, John Lozada, Elma Muros, Posadas, Cristabel Martes and Roy Vence; Purita Joy Marino (archery); RP men's team (basketball); the billiards trio of Lee Van Corteza, Antonio Lining and Warren Kiamco; RP bowling team (Chester King, Christian Suarez, Engelbert Rivera, Benito Dytoc and Leonardo Rey);

RP trio bowling team (Leonardo Rey, Chester King and CJ Suarez); RP doubles bowling team of Arianne Cerdena, Mitchel Martinez (amateur boxing), Wally Mendoza (fencing), Juvic Pagunsan (golf), John Baylon (judo), karatekas Jose Ma. Pabillore and Gretchen Malalad, Jasmin Luis (shooting), taekwondo jins Roberto Cruz, Veronica Domingo and Ma. Nelia Sy-Ycasas, wushu's Mark Rosales, Willy Wang, Jerome Calica and Mar Sanguiao, motorsports Glenn Aguilar and Kenneth San Andres and powerlifters Erlina Pecante and Antonio Taguibao.

Special Citations—PSC, Pilipinas Shell (corporate sponsor—active chess), Petron (corporate sponsor—taekwondo) Caltex Philippines (corporate sponsor—boxing), individuals Andy del Rosario and North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol and the trio of Holiday Inn, Photokina Marketing and Agfa for sponsoring the weekly PSA Forum.

Posthumous awards—Alfie Almario (PBA player), Nereo Andolong (PCSO chair/POC president), Armando Besa (boxing promoter), Tito Eduque (PBA coach), Fely Fajardo (PBA coach), Chris Monfort (PFF secretary general), Larry Mumar (PBA player) and Inocencia Solis (Asian sprint queen).


SHE'S HERE: Delasin (right) arrives yesterday on board a PAL jet in the company of her caddy, Clint Begay.

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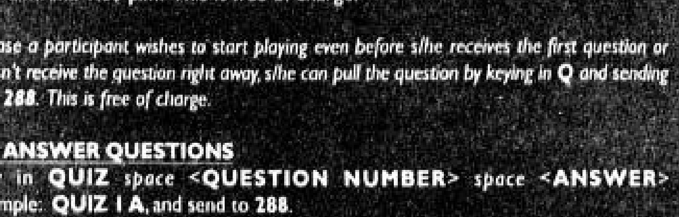

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Once a participant registers s/he will automatically receive the first question the following day. Questions will be sent to all registered participants everyday between 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. This is free of charge.

In case a participant wishes to start playing even before s/he receives the first question or doesn't receive the question right away, s/he can pull the question by keying in **Q** *and sending it to* **288**. *This is free of charge.*

TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

Key in **QUIZ** *space* **<QUESTION NUMBER>** *space* **<ANSWER>**
Example: **QUIZ 1 A**, and send to **288**.

Participants will be charged ₱2.50 for each answer s/he sends to 288 for the game. The participants will not be charged for questions received.

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See flyers for complete mechanics.
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TO QUALIFY FOR THE RAFFLES

3 correct answers = 3 points = 1 raffle entry

Participants should finish answering the three (3) multiple choice questions by 12 midnight of the same day the questions were received in order to earn one raffle entry. A maximum of one (1) raffle entry can be made in one day. In the event that the participant fails to complete all three (3) correct answers for the day, his/her points will be carried over to the next day or until she completes three (3) correct answers within that same week. Participants may accumulate as many raffle entries as they can for the period of one week.

TO VIEW RAFFLE ENTRIES

Key in **QUIZ ENTRY** and send to **288**. The processing of points and raffle entries earned by each participant is done every 12 midnight, at the end of each day. The participant should check his/her standing before starting each game/day. *Rate for Quiz Entry is ₱2.50.*

TO GET KEYWORDS FOR THE GAME

Key in **HELP QUIZ** and send to **288**.

Promo period, draw dates and prizes are as follows:

WEEK	Draw Dates	Prizes
Week 1	January 14, 2002	₱50,000.00
Week 2	Janauary 21, 2002	₱50,000.00
Week 3	January 28, 2002	₱50,000.00
First Monthly Draw	February 4, 2002	₱100,000.00
Week 4	February 11, 2002	₱50,000.00
Week 5	February 18, 2002	₱50,000.00
Week 6	February 25, 2002	₱50,000.00
Second Monthly Draw	March 4, 2002	₱200,000.00
Week 7	March 11, 2002	₱50,000.00
Week 8	March 18, 2002	₱50,000.00
Week 9	March 25, 2002	₱50,000.00
Grand Draw	April 1, 2002	₱1,000,000.00

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Guingona at Kilosbayan

VICE president Teofisto T. Guingona and Executive Secretary Alberto G. Romulo will be the guest speakers at the Kilosbayan Forum today at Shalom Center on Leon Ma. Guerrero Street, Malate, Manila. Guingona will talk about "The Case of Nur Misuari" and Romulo will discuss "The GMA Administration: A Brief Review."

Doromal's group shot Strawberry – police

By Christian V. Esguerra

"OUR findings show that it was (Mark) Doromal and his security guards who accidentally shot and killed Strawberry."

Insp. Sergio Gaarrobo, chief of the Las Piñas Police Station Investigation Division, said this yesterday as he announced that they would file criminal charges against Doromal and his group for the fatal shooting of the former child actress, who was his girlfriend, during a quarrel with another group over traffic last Dec. 18.

But Gaarrobo said he and his men could not file charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide against Doromal since the family of Strawberry—real name, Anouk Baldo, 25—never showed up before the Las Piñas police.

"In television interviews, the mother often pleads for justice," Gaarrobo told the INQUIRER. "But if she really wants justice, she should come to us and have the case filed."

He said that all pieces of evidence gathered by Las Piñas police point to Doromal and his security guards as the ones who accidentally shot and killed Strawberry during a traffic altercation with the family of businessman Raynaldo Picar.

Doromal, whose father owns a security agency, has consistently denied this, insisting it was the Picars who killed his girlfriend.

Paraffin tests conducted on the Picars yielded negative results, Gaarrobo said.

Police also tested Raynaldo's .9 mm pistol to determine if it had been fired. Gaarrobo said the test also had a negative result.

The strongest evidence that police have against Doromal's group are the testimonies of two people who supposedly witnessed the shooting, Gaarrobo said.

A female witness had supposedly told police that the shots that killed Strawberry were fired by Doromal and his group.

Though Doromal did not fire, two of his security guards shot at the car of Strawberry, killing the former child actress, another witness had told the National Bureau of Investigation.

The Las Piñas prosecutor's office will start today its preliminary investigation of the attempted murder charges the Picars filed against Doromal's group.

The Picars have accused Doromal and his men of attempting to kill them during the Dec. 18 altercation.

PROTEST GROWS LOUDER

Expressways refuse to heed GMA's rate suspension order

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE OPERATORS of the North and the South Luzon expressways yesterday refused to make any refund of toll pending the government's final decision on the latest increase in toll rates in the South road system.

This caused a number of incidents of motorists arguing with toll collectors on the expressways, with the motorists cursing the government for not enforcing the suspension of the increased rates.

"Let's wait for the decision," said Che Che Perez, corporate communications division head of the Philippine National Construction Corp., which runs the expressways.

President Macapagal earlier suspended for a week the increase in the expressway toll rates following complaints from motorists using the southbound part of the road system.

Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., which operates the Skyway, the elevated portion of the SLEX, yesterday clarified that only the toll increase on the North and South Luzon expressways was suspended by the President.

New toll rates on the Coastal Road are also not covered by the reported suspension, according to the PEA Tollway Corp.

Complainants since Wednesday have been demanding a refund of the additional payment they have had made since the increased rates took effect on Jan. 1.

Perez said the PNCC was willing to make refunds if Malacañang would decide that the latest toll increase was exorbitant and unjustified.

He said that the refund would be in the form of free use of the expressways on a specified day.

Road users and lawmakers raised howls of protest when the Toll Regulatory Broad granted the petition for a 36 to 60 percent increase in toll rates on the South and North Luzon expressways, Coastal Road, and the Skyway.

Days before the New Year, Rep. Eduardo Zialcita of Parañaque asked the court to stop the planned increases.

Zialcita said the TRB failed to conduct effective public hearings to discuss the issue. A Parañaque court, however, junked his petition for a temporary restraining order.

Korina sues tabloid writer, 2 editors over spray net, 'reenactment' stories

By Nelson F. Flores

KORINA Sanchez strikes back.

Government prosecutors yesterday filed libel charges against two tabloid show biz columnists and an editor for writing allegedly malicious articles about ABS-CBN news reader and talk show host Sanchez.

The prosecutors, who filed the charges before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court, said there was enough prima facie evidence to warrant the filing of the libel case against columnist Jobert Sucaldito of Bulgar, entertainment editor Dennis Aguilar also of Bulgar, and entertainment editor Gil Villasana of Bandera, another tabloid.

Case records said Sucaldito wrote about Sanchez's alleged excessive use of spray net, which he said reportedly contributed to her separation from former boyfriend Noynoy Aquino, son of former President Cory Aquino.

Sucaldito also wrote about an instance in Davao City where scuba divers removed garbage from the sea. He said Sanchez came to cover the event but she arrived late so she asked the divers to return the trash to the water so her group could film them retrieving the trash.

Sucaldito also mentioned Sanchez's alleged use of profanity on her former assistant Pete de la Cruz.

The articles about Sanchez all appeared in Bulgar and Bandera on Sept. 13.

Prosecutor Amerhassan Paudac said in a nine-page resolution that Sucaldito's articles portrayed Sanchez as "a difficult employer who maltreats her employees and makes liberal use of profanity in dealing with them."

In his counter affidavit, Sucaldito said there was "nothing personal" in his article and its publication was not prompted by ill wil.

Sucaldito also said editors Aguilar and Villasana were not involved in the gathering of his reports.

A former housemaid earlier accused Sanchez and her friend Paul Aquino of beating her up and throwing her out of Aquino's condo unit days before last Christmas when she told them she wanted to leave the broadcaster's employ.

A lawyer who hosts a legal advice radio program on GMA 7, the biggest rival of ABS-CBN, had come to the housemaid's aid, for free.

SANCHEZ

The PSC, like Wind Blown, deserves an award

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THANK heaven for award-giving bodies, they often bring out the best—and the worst—among our men and women.

Take Cesar Montano. He was honored as best actor by a board of respected jurors in the last Metro Manila Film Festival. In gratitude, Cesar gave the judges what a wild horse does brutally to a silly guy's behind.

At least, in tonight's affair at the Holiday Inn where the country's oldest sportswriting fraternity, the Philippine Sportswriters Association, will honor top athletes, there won't be a Cesar Montano to display his form of equine gratitude.

The PSA, in a very generous mood, will honor a celebrated race horse. Wind Blown has been listed among the major awardees, side by side with the likes of world boxing champ Manny Pacquiao, who might not show up because, he told one reporter, he has to take care of his child in General Santos.

Anyway, because Wind Blown, unlike Cesar Montano, did not also star in a movie that could end up losing in the best-film race, the premier racehorse cannot be expected to go wild like the disgusted best actor in the last Metro Manila filmfest.

At least, Wind Blown, unlike Montano, will not make an acceptance speech. You can be very sure of that.

The PSA, of course, has yet to name a reporter who would interview Wind Blown on how it felt after having made it among the major awardees in the prestigious annual ball originally reserved for speaking Filipino sports stars.

***

Based on the long list of awardees and honorees, you could swear 2001 had been a great, terrific, fruitful, scrumptious year for Philippine sports.

But was it?

Bata Reyes, after failing to make waves in the World Pool Championship for a second straight year in Cardiff, ended the year in grand style by stringing up practically all major international titles as 2001 headed for a close.

The humble, generous, sweet-smiling hero made us all very proud.

Golfer Dorothy Delasin also gave the Pinoy sports fan reason to be extra glad through her golden exploits in the foreign field.

Go Teng Kok's runners, following big wins in the last Southeast Asian Games, provided us something to look forward to in this year's Asind in Pusan.

There were a few of truly deserving notables among the major awardees.

On the whole though, the exact state of Philippine sports was pitifully projected in the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games.

Other than fail miserably in its quest for the projected gold medals, the Philippines got stuck at fifth overall, behind war-ravaged Vietnam, in the general standings dominated by the hosts.

***

At least, it has been made clear that it was not for this glaring failure that the PSA has decided to honor both the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Also, it was not for its magnificent feat of having joined forces in trying to deodorize the poor RP performance in Kuala Lumpur that both the PSC and the POC would be cited.

There were other intricately defined objectives for which both the PSC and POC were supposed to get their congratulations.

But, strictly speaking, if there's something that the PSC should be credited for, it's in having made a superstar out of a non-athlete; and we don't mean Wind Blown.

For the many times he had put his first cousin, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, at centerstage together with RP gold medal winners in KL, the PSC chair should be given a separate, distinct plaque.

No, it should not be for rig driver or cuchero of the year. That would be too crude, even if it could be closer to the truth.

Instead, the PSC should be credited for having made the First Gentleman, in the center of graft controversies, appear really good.

The presidential cousin did make Mr. Arroyo shine and look very wholesome during the SEA Games and thereafter.

The PSC, with its generous incentives for winners, had also succeeded in making even the losers—mainly those who were supposed to have won the "near golds" –look like truly deserving stars.

So, isn't about time the PSC big boss got something like the Feel-Good award of the year?

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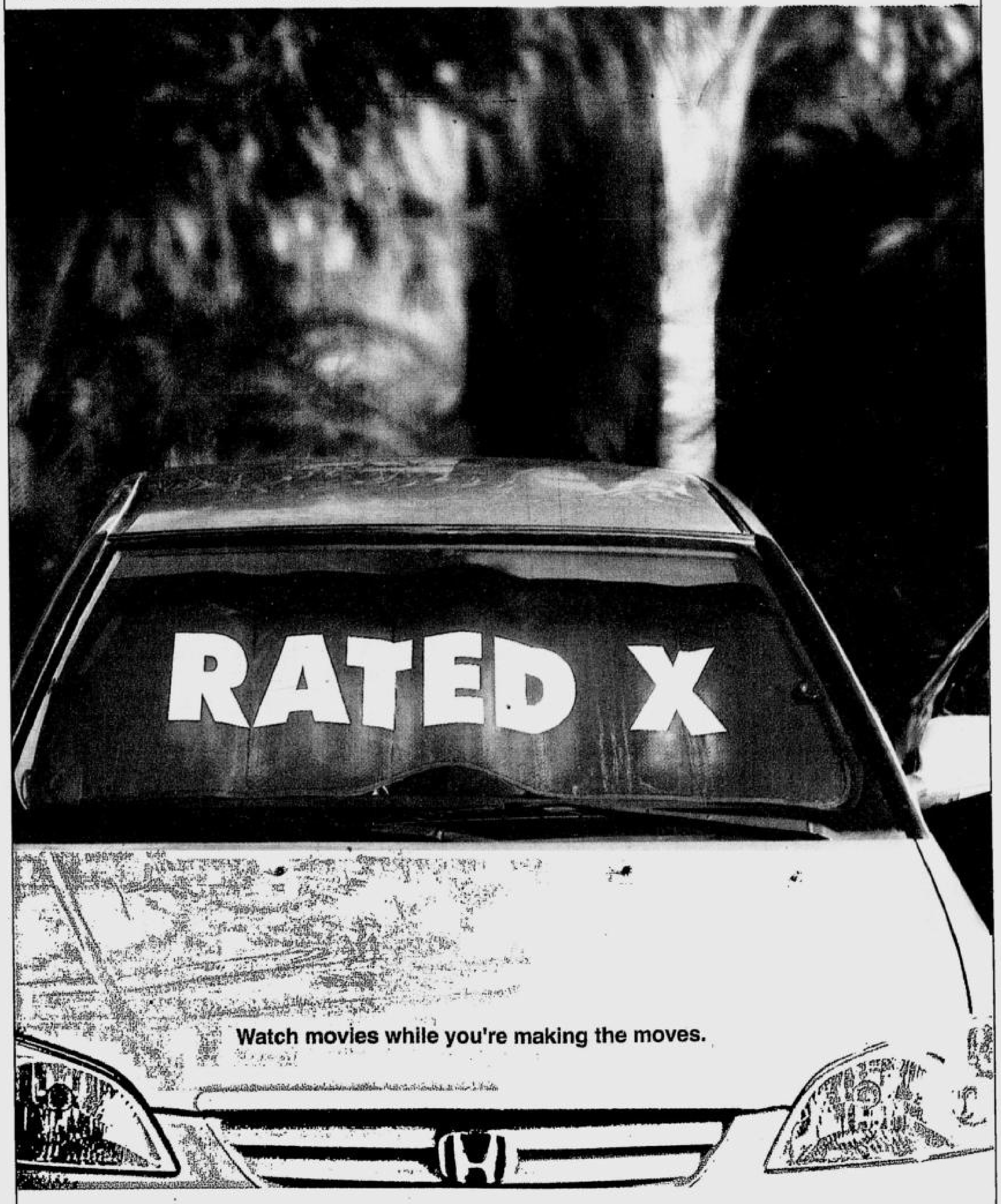

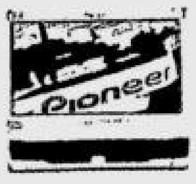

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7	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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tel 244.4619

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	BRO
3	PEKSMAN
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
2	PEKSMAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
2	BRO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2190

1	HUBOG
2	PEKSMAN
3 (DTS)	SPY GAMES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2 (DTS)	PEKSMAN
3 (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
4	HUBOG

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	PEKSMAN
2 (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
3 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	HUBOG

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	HUBOG
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
(Tarlac)

1	HUBOG
2	BRO
3 (DOLBY)	MUSKETEERS
4 (DTS)	SUMMER CATCH

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
3	PEKSMAN
4 (DTS)	SPY GAMES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
2	PEKSMAN
3 (DTS)	HUBOG
4	BATANG LANSANGAN
5	YAMASHITA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PEKSMAN
2	HUBOG
3	SPY GAMES

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	PEKSMAN
2	HUBOG
3	SPY GAMES

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	BRO
2	HUBOG
3	SUSMARYOSEP

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BATANG LANSANGAN
2	PEKSMAN
3	MUSKETEERS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	HUBOG
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HUBOG
2	YAMASHITA
3	BATANG LANSANGAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	THE SCORE
2	KING OF GLADIATOR
3	YAMASHITA
4	BAGONG BUWAN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5003 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	EARTHQUAKE
2	HUBOG
3	ROCKSTAR
4 (DTS EX)	YAMASHITA

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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GALLERIA
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1	LORD OF THE RING
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	GIRLS FEVER
5	SPY GAMES
6	ON THE LINE
7	GLASS HOUSE
8	BAGONG BUWAN
9	YAMASHITA
10	PEKSMAN

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	GIRLS FEVER
3	GLASS HOUSE
4	ON THE LINE
5	PEKSMAN
6	LORD OF THE RING
7	SPY GAMES

METRO EAST
632-9115-16 / 633-7641

1	GIRLS FEVER
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	HUBOG
5	SPY GAMES
6	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
7	PEKSMAN
8	BAGONG BUWAN

NOVALICHES
936-3229 TO 31

1	ON THE LINE
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	GIRLS FEVER
5	SPY GAMES
6	PEKSMAN
7	YAMASHITA
8	BAGONG BUWAN

IMUS
(046) 471-9100

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
3	GIRLS FEVER
4	SPY GAMES
5	PEKSMAN
6	BAGONG BUWAN

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453 / 0459

1	SUMMER CATCH
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	TATARIN
4	EARTHQUAKE
5	MOST VALUABLE
6	BUBBLE BOY

ILOILO
(033) 336-8077 / 8078

1	THE MASKETTERS
2	MOST VALUABLE
3	SUSMARYOSEP
4	HUBOG
5	BAGONG BUWAN
6	YAMASHITA

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BAGONG BUWAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	WALANG IWANAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPY GAME
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	GIRL FEVER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	ON THE LINE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ROSARIO-18/TEMPRESS AFFAIR
ODEON	WALANG IWANAN
ODEON-2	LORD OF THE RING
ROBEN	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	KNIGHT'S TAIL / THE BODY

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
REMAR	WALANG IWANAN
REMAR-2	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BAGONG BUWAN
B	WALANG IWANAN
C	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAHAY NI LOLA
CINEMA-2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
CINEMA-3	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GIRL FEVER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	TATARIN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPY GAME
CINEMA-12	ON THE LINE
CINEMA-14	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-15	LORD OF THE RINGS

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-3	SPY GAME
CINEMA-4	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-5	SPY GAME
CINEMA-6	THE LORD OF THE RINGS

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

New primetime schedule

ABS-CBN announced changes in its primetime schedule starting this week.

Fernando Poe Jr. sees a lot of action on Mondays, 9 to 10:30 p.m.

On Tuesdays, "Oka Tokat" gets an extended timeslot from 9 to 10:30 p.m.

Wednesdays sizzle when "Whattamen" at 9 p.m. goes back-to-back with "Attagirl," at 9:45 p.m.

"Maalaala Mo Kaya" goes on an earlier timeslot at 9 p.m.

Catch the latest news stories on ABS-CBN "Headlines," weekdays, 10:30 p.m.

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173869

1	YAMASHITA
2	HUBOG
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	SPY GAMES
6	PEKSMAN
7	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
8	GIRL FEVER

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	WALANG IWANAN
3	SPY GAMES
4	BAHAY NI LOLA
5	LORD OF THE RINGS
6	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
7	BAGONG BUWAN
8	ON THE LINE
9	YAMASHITA
10	HUBOG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	GIRL FEVER
2	HUBOG
3	YAMASHITA
4	LORD OF THE RING
5	BAHAY NI LOLA
6	WALANG IWANAN
7	SPY GAMES
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	BAGONG BUWAN
10	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
11	ON THE LINE
12	TATARIN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	SPY GAMES
3	YAMASHITA
4	ON THE LINE
5	GLASS HOUSE
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	GIRL FEVER
8	TATARIN
9	LORD OF THE RINGS
10	HUBOG
11	PEKSMAN
12	BAGONG BUWAN

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	ON THE LINE
3	SPY GAMES
4	LORD OF THE RING
5	GIRL FEVER
6	GLASS HOUSE
7	YAMASHITA
8	HUBOG
9	BAGONG BUWAN
10	LORD OF THE RINGS
11	PEKSMAN
12	TATARIN

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	WALANG IWANAN
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	SPY GAMES

DIGITAL dts SOUND DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	WALANG IWANAN
4	YAMASHITA
5	GIRL FEVER
6	SPY GAMES
7	BAGONG BUWAN
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	BAHAY NI LOLA
10	ON THE LINE
11	HUBOG
12	GLASS HOUSE

SM SOUTHMALL
8066088 • 8066762

1	GIRLS FEVER
2	ON THE LINE
3	SPY GAMES
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	YAMASHITA
6	HUBOG
7	BAGONG BUWAN
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	BAHAY NI LOLA
10	WALANG IWANAN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	WALANG IWANAN

SM CEBU
2313876

1	ON THE LINE
2	SPY GAMES
3	WOLF GIRL
4	DI KITA MA-REACH
5	BAHAY NI LOLA
6	PISNGI NG LANGIT
7	YAMASHITA

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	HUBOG
2	CLOSED
3	MASKETTEER
4	BAHAY NI LOLA
5	BAGONG BUWAN
6	4 FATHERS
7	CLOSED
8	MVP

SM PAMPANGA
7128015

1	SPY GAMES
2	ROCKSTAR
3	YAMASHITA
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	ON THE LINE
6	HUBOG

SM SUCAT
8294975

1	PEKSMAN
2	SPY GAMES
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAGONG BUWAN

SM DAVAO

1	YAMASHITA
2	4 FATHERS
3	ON THE LINE
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	WOLF GIRLS
6	SPY GAMES

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Jose Mari Chan returns to his 'original' sound

(From page A22)

Barrymore, Natalie Wood and **Bing Crosby**.

In "Here and Now," which is his original hit, Joemari duets with singing newcomer **Aliya Parcs**.

Joemari is optimistic the songs in "A Heart's Journey" will make their way through the airlanes.

"I'm hoping radio will support me this time," he says. "Before, there was some sort of prejudice because there was the perception that Jose Mari Chan is no longer young. But I hope radio people will be more open-minded and give the younger generation a chance to appreciate my songs. The MTV generation should be exposed to a wider range of music. After all, it's the same genre."

Joemari laments that video pirates might now be at work on mass producing his latest album and selling it at a much cheaper price.

"Filipinos love music, but for as long as there's a market, the pirates will continue to flourish," he maintains. "You cannot stop them. They are killing the recording industry. What if the artists only live on royalties? They will get nothing because of the music pirates?

Still, Joemari believes piracy has done something to the advantage of the consumers.

"The legitimate recording companies were forced to lower the prices of CD, so more people can afford to buy one," he says.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 1:00, 4:30, 8:00	LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 11:05, 2:35, 6:05, 9:35	SPY GAME - P 13 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25
LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 10:20, 1:50, 5:20, 8:50	SPY GAME - P 13 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50	LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 11:50, 3:20, 6:50, 10:20

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

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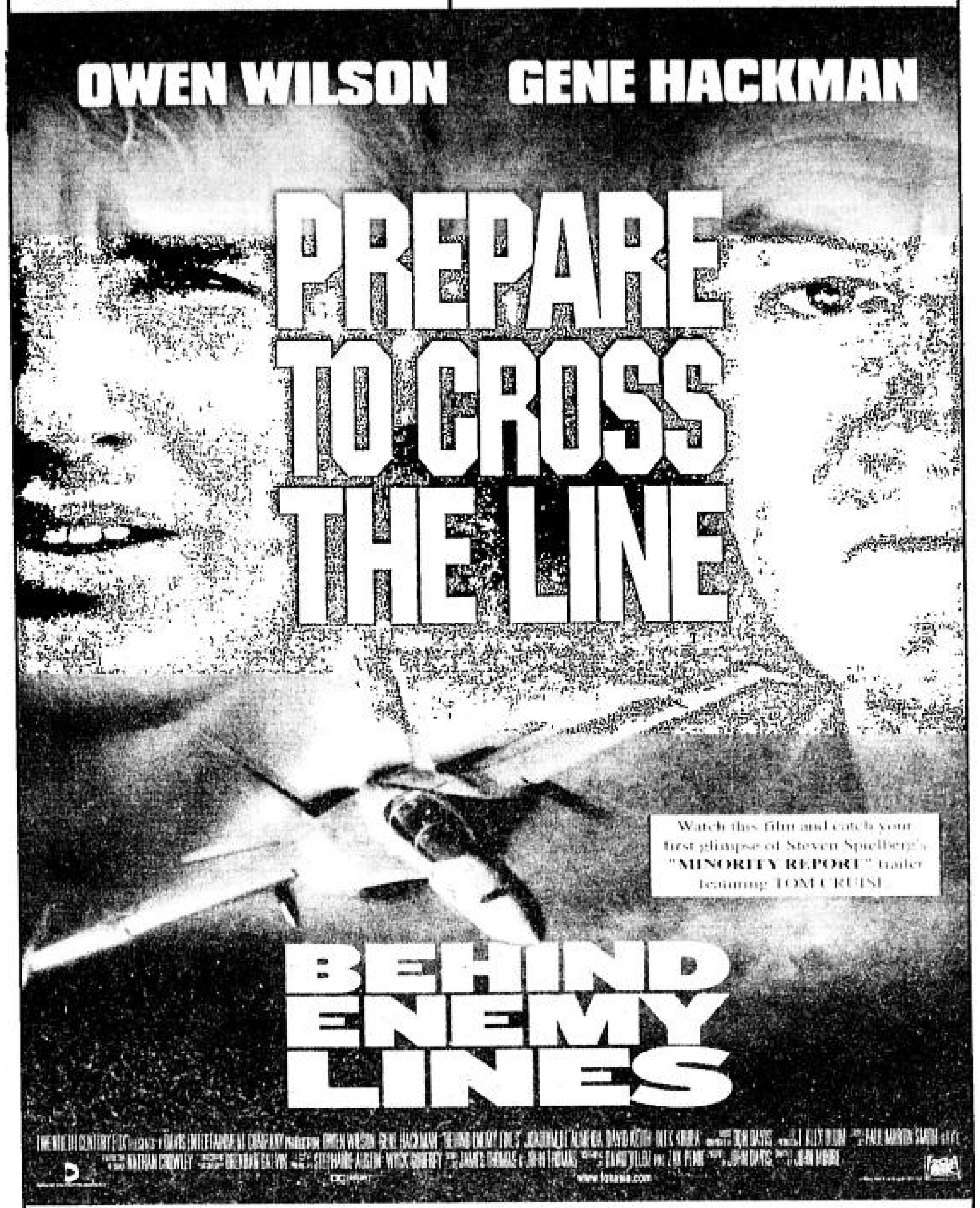
That's What Showing At Ayala Cinemas.
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage
THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

One ring to rule them all. One ring to find them, One ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them
LORD OF THE RINGS
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.


OWEN WILSON GENE HACKMAN
PREPARE TO CROSS THE LINE
BEHIND ENEMY LINES
www.foxasia.com

Watch this film and catch your first glimpse of Steven Spielberg's "MINORITY REPORT" trailer featuring TOM CRUISE

OPENS JANUARY 16!

PLACE YOUR BETS ON JAN. 23!
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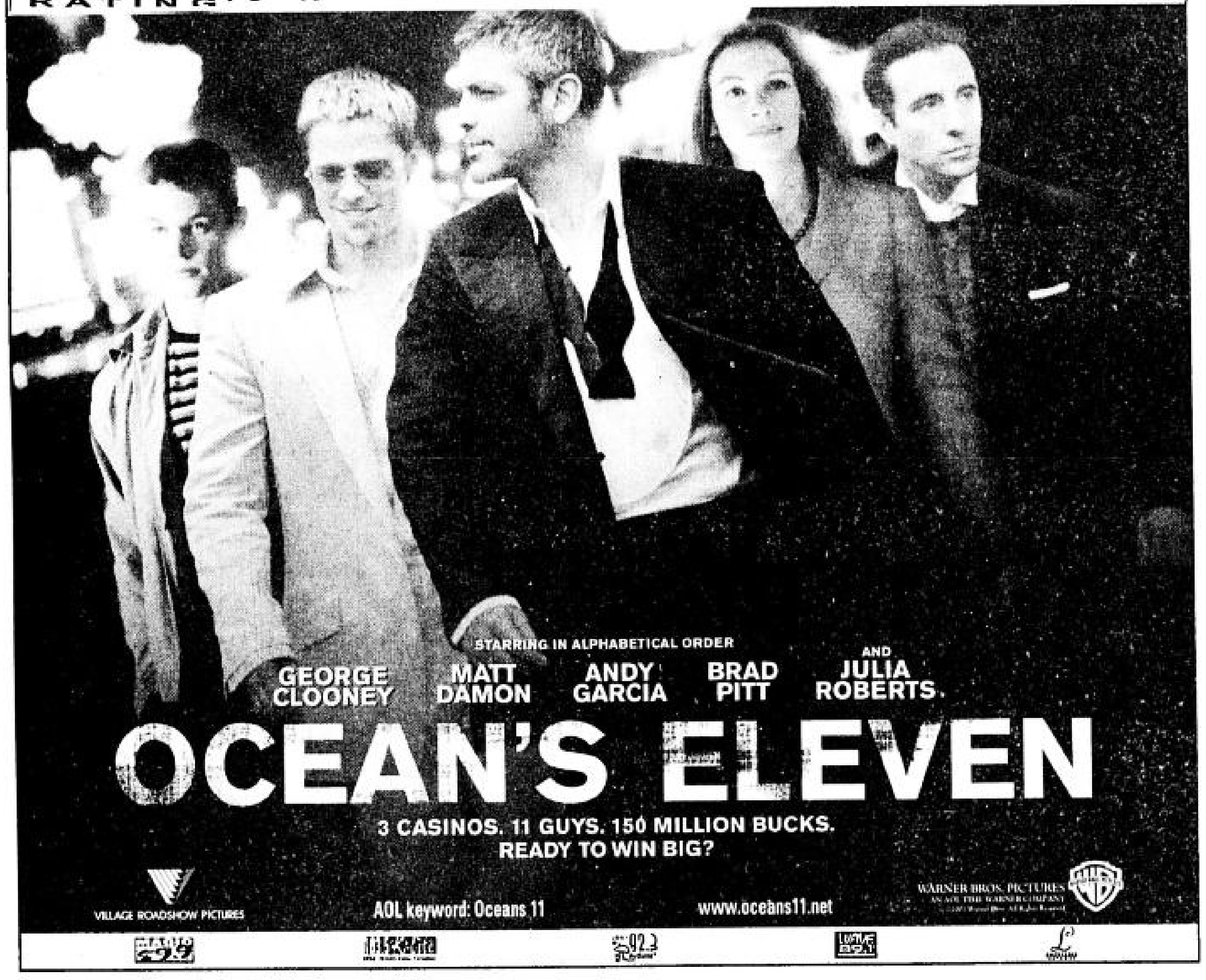
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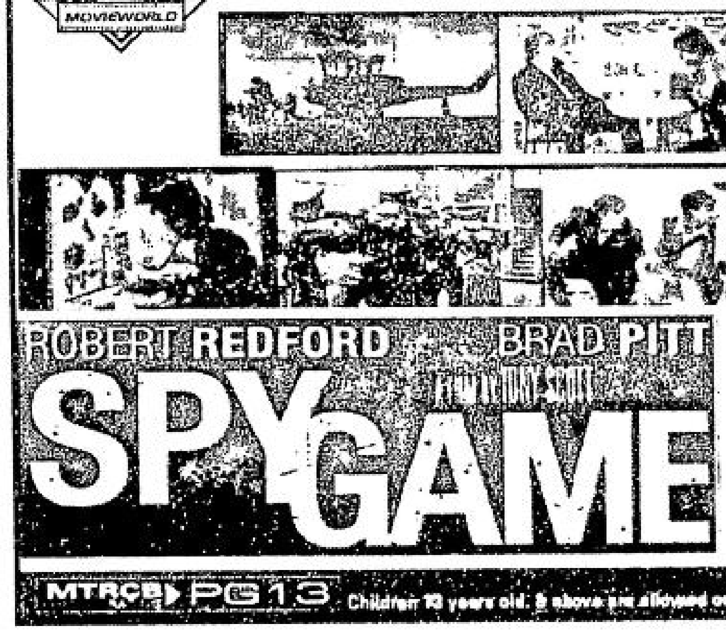
ROBERT REDFORD
BRAD PITT
SPY GAME

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Art Film

MTRCB RATING R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS.
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HAPPY END
JAN 9 TO 14, 2002
Happy End is the debut work of director Jung Ji-woo, who won acclaim with an earlier short film titled A Bit Bitter (literal translation: "Ginger"). This new work focuses on three characters: a banker who loses his job but finds a sense of fulfillment in his new life at home, taking care of his daughter and reading mysteries in the park; his wife, a successful career woman who manages a language institute; and her ex-boyfriend, with whom she became separated years earlier when he was drafted into the army.

NEXT ATTRACTIONS
THE KING IS DANCING (Restricted 18)
JAN. 15 to 19, 2002
TEARS OF THE BLACK TIGER (Restricted 18)
JAN. 20 to 22, 2002

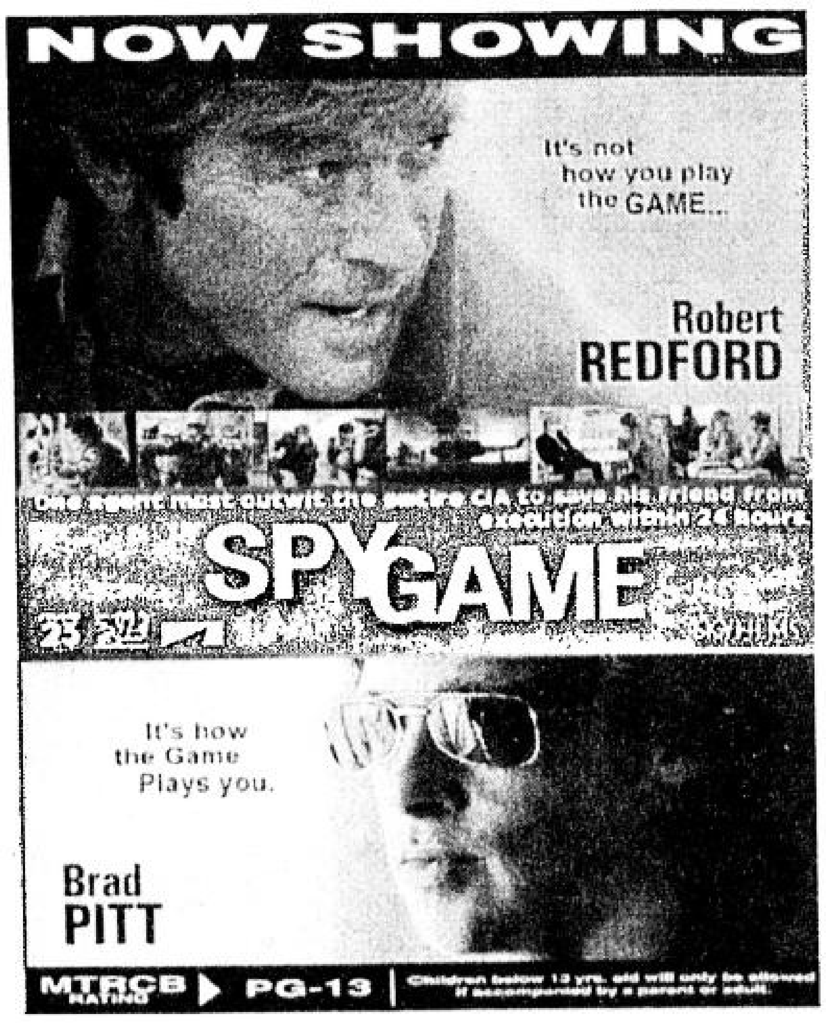
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

BEN STILLER
A new comedy from the star of "Something About Mary" and "Meet The Parents"
ZOOLANDER

www.dereklzoolander.com
OPENS JANUARY 16!
united international pictures SMART E! Information Gateway Inc. VIVA

RELAX & SEE A MOVIE

NOW SHOWING


It's not how you play the GAME...
Robert REDFORD
One agent must outwit the entire CIA to save his friend from execution within 24 hours.
SPY GAME
It's how the Game Plays you.
Brad PITT

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

Move over... The Hunks Ang Bagong King to the Bones
OPENS JANUARY 16
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

GISELLE SANCHEZ
GENEVA CRUZ
JANETTE MCBRIDE
LONG MEJIA
ANDREW E. in
BURLES KING
daw o...
Directed by Ipe Pelino

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Deriving calm and comfort from Nirvana candles

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

IF YOU saw the film "Serendipity," you'd be familiar with the scene where Sara's best friend who worked for a new age boutique said a line to the effect that "some women should just stop buying and lighting candles that supposedly would give them their soulmate when instead they should just go out and venture into the real world."

Sorry to ignore her advice, but I derive so much calm and comfort in lighting my "Nirvana" candles that I have to share with you what the candles are supposed to represent.

"Regenere" has a branch on the fourth level of Shangri-La Plaza. This store carries many different lines of scented candles and this past Christmas season I discovered their "Nirvana" candles.

Looking up the word nirvana, in its religious connotation it's the "attainment of enlightenment and freeing of the spiritual self from attachment to worldly things." In everyday usage it's "a completely enjoyable experience, a pleasurable emotion such as harmony or joy."

What a perfect way to name a line of candles. Watching the candles glow, the hope that the light symbolizes and the warmth the candles lend the room enriches the ritual of candle-lighting.

My favorite is the red, imprinted with a heart aflame over roses, "Sacred Heart" candle. This candle is supposed to encourage "Eternal love, joy and compassion. The discovery of a soul mate."

In conjunction wit this, I've been lighting nightly a green, "Eye of Mystery" candle that's supposed to promote "The power of light. Protection from evil." To complete my candle trio is the purple candle representing "Peace and Harmony."

It does make sense that you're never going to find your soul mate if you stay cooped up inside your bedroom, but it also does make sense that you have to first be at peace with yourself as well as the fact that you're able to derive joy from within and in solitude, before you can hope to share that with another.

That's what I've been striving for, the strength to be self-contained yet unselfish, an openness of spirit, and an overall calm and peaceful demeanor.

Going back to aromatherapy, I've proven to myself how effective "lavender" essential oil can be. Again citing my book "Aromatherapy: A Practical Introduction" by **Sandra White**, I read that lavender oil can be very helpful in dealing with almost all skin conditions, like minor burns, wounds, sores, acne, eczema and psoriasis.

I don't know if it was a reaction to my toothpaste, or just the cool weather we've been having, but I was having dry, scaly, rash-like eruptions around my chin area. For several nights I applied about 3-4 drops of lavender essential oil mixed with a natural base oil in a cotton ball and wiped that around the affected area. I was impressed when the third morning, the rashes and irritating dryness was gone.

I've also been mixing lavender oil into my after bath oil. While your skin is damp, just massage a carrier oil (sunflower, almond, or soya oils are some I've tried) mixed with the lavender essential oil, the ratio is normally for every 10 ml of the carrier oil, 5 to 8 drops of the essential oil.

I had 2 deep scratches on my thigh, due to my carelessness when removing a dress I was trying on that had many pins on it. I'd had those scratches since late November and it was taking forever for the scratch marks to disappear. For the past couple of weeks I've been using the lavender infused after-bath oil, and I noticed just the other day that my scratch marks were now almost invisible.

Aromatherapy and the practice of using essential oils for healing has been around for 5,000 years, and in the 21st century, I'm discovering just how effective it is!

* * *

(Last Monday, Kris Aquino's column was cut due to space limitations. We are printing the continuation of the Monday column today —Ed)

I read my book, "Aromatherapy, A Practical Introduction" by Sandra White that these scent of orange is "useful for depression and sadness," while grapefruit can be used in dealing with "anxiety and self doubt," both of which are present in "Happy for S.A.D."

The other shower gel I particularly like is "Skinny Dip," which was again from **Richard** and **Lucy Gomez**, this time part of my yummy Christmas gift package from the couple. This shower gel has "moisturizing cocoa butter chips and white chocolate."

My skin had a tendency to get dry during cooler weather, and this helps to moisturize my skin.

Lastly, I noticed there were some little pimples that suddenly erupted in my back. I think they popped out because I'd been playing tennis and brisk walking on the treadmill, and subsequently getting soaked in sweat.

"Origins" makes "Skin Diver," an "Active Charcoal Body Soap." Charcoal according to the label, can "draw out pore-cloggers and environmental toxins."

Ever since I started using this soap in my back and in my chest, my breakouts have definitely been abated. Don't worry, despite the name, charcoal soap doesn't smell weird, it's actually quite pleasant smelling.

You've got to treat yourself well, and eventually the world will treat you better.

I've realized I've finally cultivated a better sense of humor, because even if my dear friend, *Tito* **Ricky Lo** (we have a special, one-of-a-kind, mostly loving, at times "purposely trying to annoy each other" relationship) wrote as part of his 2002 Predictions that my love life will remain "barren," I managed to laugh it off. I just asked him to please check his thesaurus for less painful, without a sense of finality words.

May I suggest, "hibernating," "slumbering" and "on hiatus?" At least these words still have hope of one day being rejuvenated, blossoming and active again, whereas "barren" means "with no useful result, not producing valuable results or interesting effects."

Early indicators

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SINCE the Oscars are the most popular movie awards, film buffs love to speculate about its finalists and winners each year, months before they are announced. For auspicious signs, they look to the smaller or more specialized awards derbies that announce their winners long before Oscar makes known his choices.

Two of the earliest indicators have already made known their winners, and it's a fair bet that many of them will end up at least as Oscar finalists:

The American Film Institute Awards for 2001 have gone to "The Fellowship of the Rings" as best picture, **Robert Altman**, ("Gosford Park") as best director, **Denzel Washington** ("Training Day") as best actor, **Sissy Spacek** ("In the Bedroom") as best actress, **Christopher Nolan** ("Memento") as best screenplay writer, **Gene Hackman** ("The Royal Tenenbaums") as best supporting actor, and **Jennifer Connelly** ("A Beautiful Mind") as best supporting actress.

For its part, the (US) National Society of Film Critics has named **David Lynch**'s "Mulholland Drive" as best picture, followed by "Gosford Park" and "Fellowship of the Ring." Like the AFI, it also voted Altman as best director, with Lynch and "Rings" director **Peter Jackson** in second and third places.

The best actress award went to **Naomi Watts** ("Mulholland Drive"), Gène Hackman ("The Royal Tenenbaums" won as best actor, and **Julilan Fellowes**' script for "Gosford Park" clinched best screenplay honors.

It's likely, therefore, that "The Fellowship of the Ring," "Mulhollan Drive" and "Gosford Park" will figure strongly in the Oscars, with Altman, Jackson and David Lynch competing for best-director honors, and Washington, Hackman, Watts and Connelly as strong contenders for acting citations.

Finally, it's interesting to see that, even in the States, awards groups can't seem to agree about which category to assign a performance, like Altman's portrayal in "The Royal Tenebaums," which was deemed a lead role by the film critics' body, and a supporting part by the AFI.

We'll have to see the film before deciding which group assigned Hackman's performance to the right category. In general, however, a lead role means that the character being portrayed is the film's protagonist and is involved in the conflict as ally or nemesis.

In local awards derbies, we also have these lead-supporting disagreements, but much of the time, the reason isn't artistic. Rather, an obviously lead performance is submitted to the "supporting" category because the actor feels the competition is less stiff in that lesser category, so he could have a better chance of emerging as winner.

Feedback

FROM Viva's **Baby Gil**: "My comment on the feedback from **EC Estrada** (Dec. 31, 2001) on **Sharon Cuneta**'s guesting on 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire,' where she won a million pesos:

"It has been the practice of all 'WW2BAM" shows all over the world to invite celebrity contestants to play for charity on special occasions. That was why the show had Sen. **Juan Flavier**, **Rufa Mae Quinto** and Sharon last Dec. 25, playing the millionaire game for their favorite charities. It was immaterial whether they were under contract with Viva or not. Had Sharon not been available, it could have been anybody else.

"Given Viva's 20 years in the entertainment business and the fact that it is involved with films, TV, music, etc., it would have been highly probable that anybody else could be working with Viva at the moment, or had worked with Viva in the past. Besides, I do not know of any TV show that would turn down the chance to have Sharon as a guest, whether Viva-produced or not.

"As everybody who watched the telecast knows, Sharon won her one million pesos fair and square. So did the studio audience which included members of the press. 'Millionaire' rules allow celebrity contestants to take home half their winnings, but Sharon decided to divide her one million pesos among the Chosen Children, the St. Lorenzo Ruiz Foundation Center, and entertainment journalist **Mar D'Guzman Cruz**, whose daughter has leukemia . . ."

CHAN. His penchant for creating beautiful melodies has not abated.

Jose Mari Chan returns to his 'original' sound

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

". . . Letting go won't be easy,
Throwing our love away
Forget that you've been the only one
Easier said than done . . .

They say that time erases
And heals all the wounds of the heart
They say this pain will soon be gone,
Easier said than done
Forget that you're the only one
Easier said than done."

THOSE are the lyrics from "Easier Said Than Done," an original tune by multi-awarded singer-composer **Jose Mari Chan.** The song is a cut in Joemari's latest album, "A Heart's Journey," released under Universal Records.

It has been years since a Joemari Chan hit dominated the airlanes. Except for the popular Yuletide tune, "Christmas in Our Hearts," which we hear every year during the holidays, a Joemari Chan song has yet to rule FM radio again.

I recall his multi-platinum "Constant Change" album, which charted such monstrous hits like "Please Be Careful With My Heart," "Beautiful Girl" and the title track.

Too bad, radio didn't support Joemari's last two albums—"Thank You Love" and "Souvenirs." The deejays felt the songs from a 56-year-old performer would not suit young listeners.

But in "A Heart's Journey," Joemari returns to his "original" sound of melodious ballads with lyrics which have substance.

The album contains romantic ballads which not only speak of a hopeful, meaningful relationship, but also of the pains and heartaches when you fall in love.

"Before, my lyrics were simply flippant, light, positive and romantic," Joemari allows. "But now, there's pain that's why I called it 'A Heart's Journey.'"

In the title track, "A Heart's Journey," Joemari wrote about finding true love even after having experienced heartbreak.

"The road may wind and your heart may roam/ But true love will find you again/ And lead your heart on, gently back home/ That's the journey that a heart makes/ Till at last it's home."

Meanwhile, he evokes a painful sentiment in "If We Only Had More Time Together."

"Love has a way of not turning out right/ It comes at the wrong time and leaves in the night/ Had I known that I'd lose you sooner/ I would have tried to stretch the hours longer/ And we might have loved each other more/ If we only had more time together."

"A Heart's Journey" is Joemari's 11th album in his illustrious singing and recording career which spans more than three decades. Since 1968, when he came out with his debut album, "Deep in My Heart," Joemari has not stopped churning out beautiful melodies that warm the heart.

Lovers have adopted his songs as their own. His music has been played in weddings. Yet, his penchant for creating love songs has not abated.

In "A Heart's Journey," Joemari wrote nine of the 14 tracks. **Jungee Marcelo** contributed "Please Don't Just Say Maybe" and **Lilibeth Tan** penned "The Way I Feel for You."

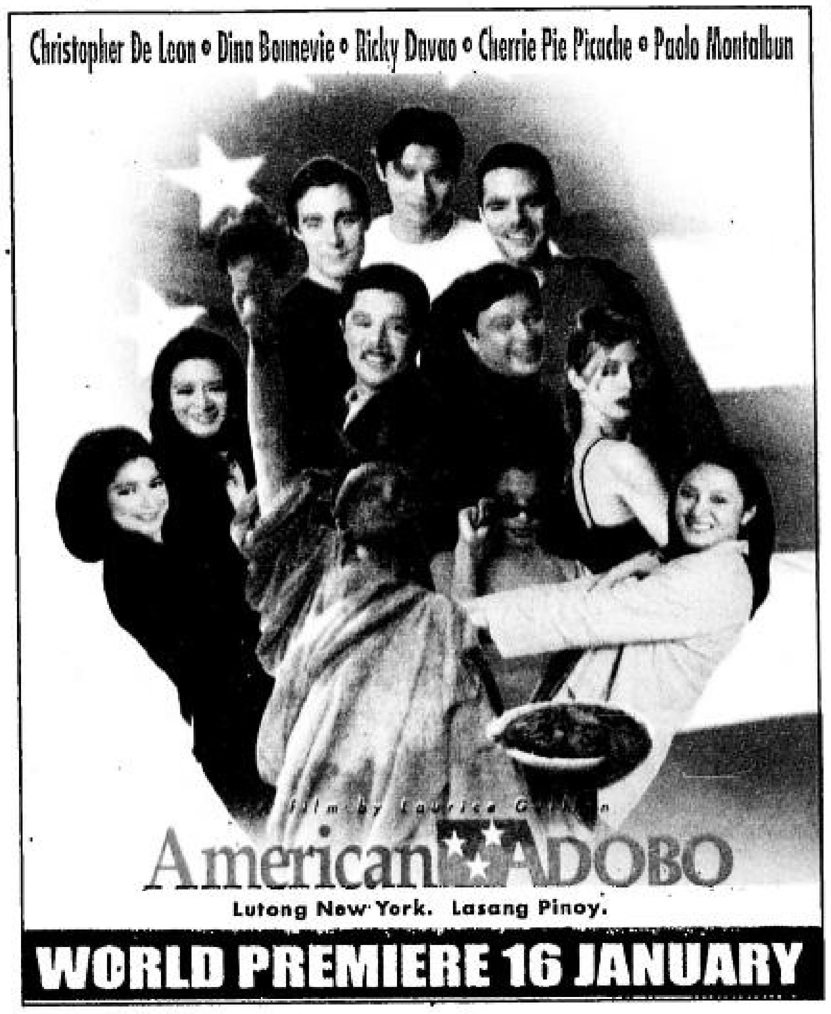
With **Denise Rich** and **Peter Zizzo**, Joemari wrote "I Have Found My World in You." The song was recorded twice in the album. Joemari's daughter, **Lisa Chan**, who sang the "Christmas in Our Hearts" duet with him, goes solo this time in "I Have Found My World in You." Joemari also recorded his own version of the song.

Fr. **Manoling Francisco**, who composed the hit inspirational ditty, "Hindi Kita Malilimutan," did the music for **Johnny Go**'s "Empty Space," which is the last cut in the album.

Joemari pays tribute to the Beatles in "A Day in the Life of a Song."

"Night Time" is a remake of his second single from his debut album. It was a song culled from the soundtrack of the film, "Just for You," which starred **Ethel**

JOSE MARI/ A21



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MEGA YAYA, MEGA ENDORSER

The 73-year-old Loreta Benitez, more popularly known as Yaya Luring, the devoted nanny of megastar Sharon Cuneta, had an early Christmas bonus when she was offered to do a TV commercial with Sharon for Fuji Film. Yaya Luring has been Sharon's constant companion for the past 30 years. The jet-setting nanny has even traveled extensively abroad for Sharon's concert tours. She made cameo appearances in Sharon's early movies like "Dear Heart," "P.S. I Love You" and "Tatlong Mukha ng Pag-ibig." The Fuji Film TV ad was conceptualized by Jimenez D'Arcy.

JOSE MARI CHAN
a heart's journey

THE CD cover of "A Heart's Journey" is a shot with Joemari Chan and his wife, Mary Ann, outside the Gruyere Castle in Switzerland.

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor **CORRIE S. NARISMA**, Assistant Editor

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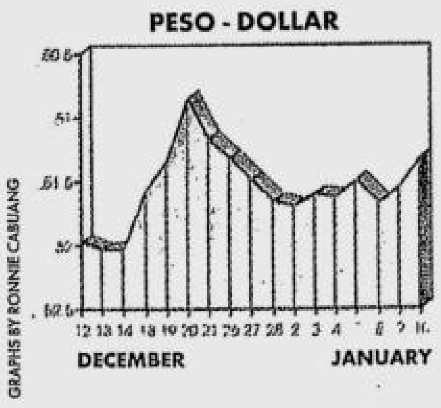
Investors snap up $750-M RP bonds

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

P51.325 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 10, 2002

¥132.58 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 10, 2002

GOLD:$283.80/284.30
per ounce Hong Kong,
Jan. 10, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares rise 0.5%

SHARE prices rose 0.5 percent yesterday on the back of a late technical rebound by blue chip Ayala Corp., analysts said.

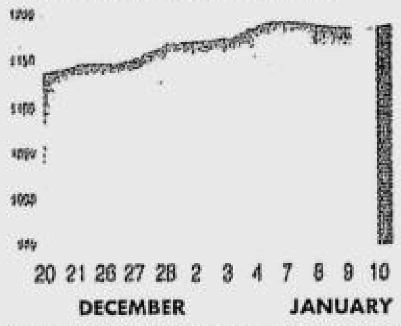
The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 5.80 points to 1,189.48.

Turnover was 210.36 million shares worth P357.12 million from Wednesday's 320 million shares worth P412 million.

"Apart from Ayala Corp., we didn't really see any broad-based recovery in the market," said Leo Venezu-

SHARES/ B2

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Broker to sell PSE seat

PJB Pacific Securities Philippines plans to sell its seat or trading right in the Philippine Stock Exchange, the Malaysian brokerage firm said in a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

PJB asked the SEC about the legal issues regarding the planned sale. The brokerage firm informed the corporate watchdog that it would have negative capitalization after the sale pushed through.

Once consummated, the sale of PJB's trading right will be the second divestment since the PSE's conversion into a stock corporation.

Last October, local brokerage house Visa Securities Corp. sold its trading right in the PSE to Paul Wee of All Suwerte Securities.

Wee was given six months or before the start of operations to meet the minimum capital of P100 million for new brokers.

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES sold $750 million worth of 15-year global bonds, up from an original target of $500 million, due to heavy investor demand.

The bonds were sold at 437.5 basis points over 10-year Treasury notes in the New York market on Wednesday, with the issue 2.5 times oversubcribed, the Department of Finance said yesterday.

Credit Suisse First Boston co-led the deal with Morgan Stanley.

An official close to the deal said about 40 percent of the buyers were US investors, while Asia and Europe accounted for about 30 percent each.

The debt papers are registered with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

About $500 million from the bond issue will be used to help keep the government's deficit target of P130 billion for 2002, while the rest was to support the debt-ridden state power firm National Power Corp.

The state-owned power firm needs about $1 billion to finance its capital spending and to pay off maturing debts this year.

The national government had also borrowed $444 million from the euro bond market in November last year in behalf of the Napocor. A direct Napocor borrowing would turn out to be more expensive by almost three quarters of a percentage point, according to the government.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the successful bond offering reflected increasing investor confidence in government policies.

"We are off to a good start this year. The strong level of over-subscription led to a cheaper borrowing for the government. This indicates growing investor confidence in our long-term economic agenda," Camacho said.

The finance department said there had been a "significant improvement" in the international market for Philippine sovereign bonds.

In July last year, the government had planned to tap the global bond market but adverse conditions and costly rates forced it to defer the fund-raising.

The market has significantly improved since last year when spreads on sovereign borrowings widened to more than 6 percentage points over benchmark rates.

"The issue's attractiveness stems from our success in creating a stable macroeconomic environment in 2001 which puts our economy on track for sustainable economic growth in the long term," the finance secretary said.

The 15-year bond issue has a 10-year put option that offered investors a yield of 9.375, a price that the government considers cheap but still attractive to buyers.

The put option means that an investor could sell the bonds back to the Philippine government on the 10th year.

OVERSEAS EXPANSION

Jollibee buys US restaurant

By Doris C. Dumlao

FAST-FOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. has acquired Tokyo Teriyaki House, a California-based Japanese fast-food restaurant, as part of its offshore diversification strategy.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, JFC said it had acquired 90 percent of the privately held company, which operates one store in Vallejo, California.

JFC and subsidiary Superior FSC Corp. had formed a new unit called Tokyo Teriyaki Corp. to become the holding company for the new restaurant unit in California. But the disclosure did not say how much JFC bought Tokyo Teriyaki House or how much more it was planning to invest in the new venture.

"Initial activities by Jollibee involve the establishment of operating procedures and standards in preparation for eventual expansion later this year," the disclosure said.

Analysts said JFC's acquisition of the Japanese store indicated that the restaurant chain was experimenting with new brands and would like to include the Japanese fast-food business as part of its portfolio.

They said JFC was trying to develop brands that would cater to foreign markets and not just to areas with large Filipino communities.

Aside from its flagship Jollibee brand, the JFC group also operates Chinese fast-food chain Chowking, pizza and pasta chain Greenwich, and deli/sandwiches chain Delifrance.

At the end of the third quarter of 2001, JFC has built a total network of 406 stores for its Jollibee brand, 196 for Greenwich, 182 for Chowking, 21 for Delifrance and 29 for offshore Jollibee and Chowking stores, including the Jollibee branches in California.

JFC has also been planning to put up 15 Jollibee stores in every major market across the globe. The global slowdown aggravated by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, however, is seen to slow down this expansion binge.

For the first nine months of 2001, JFC's net income stood at P647.6 million, 6.8 percent higher than the level during the same period the previous year. The growth in its revenues was driven by the expansion of same-base store sales and the store network of its core brands.

Although the peso depreciation has been tempered by the end of last year, JFC, like other businesses, continued to be hounded by rising cost of production.

Bangko Sentral leaves interest rates unchanged

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas decided to leave benchmark overnight interest rates unchanged yesterday, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters.

"No change," he said when asked about the rate decision. He also said there was no change in the commercial banks' liquidity reserve requirements now at 18 percent.

The bank cut overnight rates by 25 basis points in mid-December to take overnight borrowing to a six-year low of 7.75 percent and overnight lending to 10 percent.

The central bank has cut rates 16 times and by 7.25 percentage points since Dec. 1, 2000, when it began retreating from a high-rate regime adopted to protect the peso.

The decision to keep rates steady caught market participants by surprise, although the decision did not trigger any knee-jerk market reactions as many still saw a rate cut sooner or later.

BANGKO/ B3

Please don't forget the DHL Worldwide Express New Year number

The friendly folks at DHL Worldwide Express have asked me to announce that their telephone numbers will change at the beginning of the New Year. Lots and lots of exciting things are happening at DHL, including a fleet of new trucks, new uniforms and five new Customer Service Centers that'll make your life even easier when sending all those goodies overseas.

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NAIA III

Despite uncertainty, Piatco still in the game

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A LESSER man would have given up a long time ago on a project—the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal III—that has virtually gone through the wringer: two congressional hearings, two Ombudsman probes, two review process by the National Economic and Development Authority, and three presidents.

But Philippine Airport Ground Services Inc. president Jefferson Cheng is doggedly determined to see his dream project come true, even if he and his group, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc., have to face the wrath of one of the country's most powerful businessman—Philippine Airlines Inc. chair Lucio Tan.

Now, more than five years after heeding a government invitation to make a Swiss Challenge to the unsolicited proposal of Asia's Emerging Dragons Corp. to build Naia III, Cheng said Piatco had completed 67 percent of the new terminal and was on track to its Nov. 25 opening this year. "The project could have been finished as early as two to three years ago but we were only able start the project in 1999 because of the lawsuits and strong opposition from certain camps."

No regrets

He said his group had no regrets bidding for the Naia III project, although they could do without the mudslinging and other dirty tricks that came their way after the government awarded the project to Piatco.

"We would do it all over again but next time we would be more careful," said Cheng.

"We might not be one of these country's business icons, but I believe that we have the experience and sufficient financial muscle to build a world-class air terminal that we Filipinos can be proud of," he added.

Cheng, 36, said before he formed PAGS to go into cargo and ground-handling operations in 1986, his family was engaged in the chemicals business.

He said his grandfather used to have a minority interest in the makers of Baguio Oil and Philippine Blooming Mills, and that his family had close links with the Chengs of La Suerte Cigarette.

Reason

He cited two reasons why PAGS wanted to build Naia III.

CHENG: No regrets.

First, he wanted to have a world-class airport in the country that he could brag about with his friends—who had always been proud of how beautiful their airports were in their countries—and that he had a hand in its construction. Cheng, who is an architect by profession, said he chipped into the design of the terminal by adding "bits and pieces of the local culture."

Second, Cheng said PAGS was fighting for survival. "Our company has been competing with PAL in the cargo and ground-handling business for years. If Tan takes control of Naia III, we will be forced out of business. Our critics accuse us of creating a monopoly, but what if Tan gets it? He would be in control of the aviation industry," he said.

Cheng said this was the reason why Tan was agitated with Piatco's takeover of Naia III.

"It's the missing piece to his plan to gain control of businesses related to the airline industry," he said.

Nobody to blame but Tan

Cheng said Tan had nobody to blame but himself for losing the project.

"He (Tan) could have opted to merely match, not top, our bid, then the project would have been his. But he was betting that he could force us to drop our bid, which would then lead to a failure in the bidding, and the project would automatically fall on AEDC's lap," he said.

Based on a report by the House committee on transportation and communications on the deal, Piatco offered P17.615 billion more in annual guaranteed payments compared to the offer of Tan's AEDC. The other taipans had since sold out their shares to the tycoon. AEDC had 30 days to match Piatco's offer, but it opted to challenge the offer in court.

"We offered P500 million to P700 million in payments to the government versus AEDC's offer of P5 million. AEDC's total compensation package of P500 million for the entire BOT contract is even lower than our initial payment. I guess he thought it would be cheaper just to force us to drop our bid because he would then get the project on his terms," Cheng said.

Merely inherited

He claimed Piatco merely inherited the terms of the contract outlined in the unsolicited proposal made by AEDC to then President Fidel Ramos in 1995.

"We followed the AEDC contract because this was used as terms of reference for the bidding. We had the same investment commitments and the only difference was in the payments to the government," Cheng said.

PAGS started construction of Naia III in 1999 with its foreign partners, the Frankfurt Airport Group and Nissho Iwai of Japan.

Cheng said the attacks on Piatco became vicious beginning in the second half last year because "our detractors saw how serious we are in pushing through with our project."

Despite nearing completion of the project, however, "everything is still hanging," Cheng said. "Our creditors are very concerned until now because our detractors are bent on stopping the project at all cost."

First Pacific steps into sale of Metro stake in Boni Land

By Doris C. Dumlao

FIRST Pacific Co. Ltd. has stepped into the ongoing sale of affiliate Metro Pacific Corp.'s controlling stake in Bonifacio Land Corp.

In a disclosure, Metro Pacific yesterday informed the Philippine Stock Exchange that First Pacific unit Larouge BV would now co-manage the sale of its 69.6-percent stake in the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The decision came after Metro Pacific failed to repay over $90 million in loans extended by Larouge in April last year to refinance Bonifacio Land's convertible bonds.

The loans from Larouge is secured by a 50.4-percent interest in Bonifacio Land held by Metro Pacific that, in, turn, is selling its entire 69.6-percent stake in Bonifacio Land.

"Furthermore, Larouge has indicated that, when an agreement for such a sale is reached, it will offer the 50.4-percent interest in Bonifacio Land, which it holds as a secured creditor, as part of the sale transaction," Metro Pacific disclosed.

Bonifacio Land has a 55-percent stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., its joint venture with state-controlled Bases Conversion Development Authority.

Bonifacio Land and FBDC have been trying to develop a 150-hectare former military base in Taguig, Metro Manila, into one of the country's top commercial and financial districts.

The development of the Fort Bonifacio Global City, however, has been hit hard by a property slump precipitated by the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis.

"Metro Pacific also advises that it is in the process of finalizing a plan to reduce (its) existing financial obligations, details of which will be announced no later than the end of February 2002," Metro Pacific said.

Air Philippines sees earnings from int'l chartered flights

By Abigail L. Ho

AIR Philippines International Corp. said Wednesday it would focus on international chartered flights to generate revenues against the backdrop of a sluggish global economy.

Air Philippines assistant vice president Leah Sison said in an interview that plans to offer international scheduled flights were still on the table, but chartered flights would be more lucrative as these would give the airline guaranteed income.

"We haven't gone international yet. We have chartered flights to Brunei. Currently, this is the only one we have. We're focusing on chartered flights because these give us guaranteed income," she told the INQUIRER.

However, she disclosed that these flights to Brunei could be terminated should the airline's charterer, Zura Travel, choose not to continue the service.

"We don't know if it will be continued. We'll have to talk with our charterer if they'll be able to sustain operations. On our side, income is guaranteed, but I don't know if they're operating at a loss," she said.

Air Philippines' contract with the Brunei government will expire by month's end.

As for its international scheduled flights, according to Sison, Air Philippines still has pending applications for its designation with the Civil Aeronautics Board, and that the carrier will come up with concrete plans when it finally gets approval from the agency.

"The Asian applications are still there. We're still pushing it (international operation), but the decision will come later. The intention is still there," she said.

Alcatel sees big potential in data

TELECOMMUNICATIONS supplier Alcatel SA said yesterday it saw a "very big potential" in the Philippine data market, especially those involving small and medium enterprises.

Seventy to 80 percent of SMEs "still have no viable data networks," Alcatel e-Business Distribution Inc. president and general manager Gilbert Paggabao said in a news briefing.

"Most of the companies are moving toward having a data network. Most SMEs already have a voice network. To be competitive, they have to establish a data network (as well)," he said.

Alcatel launched yesterday its first converged voice-data "e-communications" appliance—OmniPCX Office—that is geared toward manufacturing companies, banking networks and SMEs.

OmniPCX Office is an "all-in-one box" that supports voice telephony, shared and secure Internet access, an e-mail server, and local area network infrastructure and services.

The Philippines is the first country in the Asia-Pacific region to use this product because of its great potential in information technology, Alcatel Asia-Pacific e-Business networking division product marketing manager Marc-Alexis Remond said.

"We see a lot of growth in three Southeast Asian markets: the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia. This is because their governments are pushing IT. We see business growth in these three countries more than in any other country. These are the only markets with IT sector growth," he said.

He added that there was a demand from Philippine SMEs for a product like OmniPCX, but Paggabao said a big problem with SMEs was the lack of capital to invest in such equipment.

DigitelOne, PeopleSupport in tie-up

DIGITELONE, the data communications arm of Digital Telecommunications Inc., has announced its partnership with PeopleSupport Inc., the leading provider of outsourced contact services.

A news statement said DigitelOne would provide PeopleSupport with a high-speed T1 data connection. "This is an important choice because the nature of outsourcing relies heavily on the technology that allows communication between great distances," DigitelOne said.

As one of the country's first Web-based customer care outsourcers and co-sources, PeopleSupport offers superior multi-channel communication technologies like e-mail, web-collaboration, live one-on-one interactive chat and voice-over-Internet protocol.

DigitelOne said this was why PeopleSupport allied itself with a prominent industry player like DigitelOne.

"We are very pleased with the alliance we have with DigitelOne. The quality of work and the level of support they provide has more than met our expectations. We look forward to a continued working relationship with them in the future," PeopleSupport country manager Bong Borja said.

PeopleSupport is the latest technology company that has teamed up with DigitelOne.

With DigitelOne, PeopleSupport will be guaranteed access to the world's largest IP-based fiber-optic network through its joint venture with Asia Global Crossing. This will result in unparalleled performance, redundancy and reliability, allowing PeopleSupport to interact and communicate with its existing customers and other branches on a global scale.

NEWS BRIEFS

Affordable hotel for OFWs

THE LEGENDS Hotels International Corp. is investing some P150 million to develop a six-story deluxe hotel in Pasay City that will cater to incoming overseas foreign workers.

Legend Hotels president Nelson Napud said the Kabayan Hotel would provide three-star hotel amenities and services at economy or budget rates.

"There is a big niche in this market because incoming OFWs would have an alternative to staying with their relatives or going to a pricey hotel."

Napud said Legend Hotels was betting that the middle- to low-end segment of the market would be less affected by the economic slowdown compared to five-star hotels, whose occupancy rates fell sharply last year.

"We believe in the resilience of the OFWs, which is still a fast growing sector of our economy," he said.

Napud said Kabayan Hotel's prospective clients were likely to stay in the hotel for one or two days after arriving in the Philippines before going to their respective provinces. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

No more direct credit for agri

DIRECT credit schemes for agriculture, mostly from large banking institutions, will be abolished by February this year, according to the Department of Agriculture.

As contained in the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, the government will push through with the removal of direct credit programs for the agriculture sector currently dominated by Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said the new credit scheme to be introduced by government would be the Agro-Industry Modernization Credit and Financing Program.

The new program will give rural banks, cooperative rural banks and other financing non-government groups an opportunity to increase their loan portfolio and customer base. *Christine A. Gaylican*

Observe process, Quedancor told

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has urged the Quedan Rural Credit and Guarantee Corp. to secure requirements and be classified as a non-bank financial institution and be under its supervision.

In response to Quedancor's letter of request that it be placed under the central bank's tutelage, the BSP said the government-owned lending firm should go through the tedious process of applying to obtain a license just like other institutions performing quasi-banking functions.

"For purposes of securing the aforesaid approval, Quendancor must comply with the requirements of the manual of regulation for non-bank financial institutions. An institution cannot be placed under the BSP's supervision on basis of mere inference," BSP's Division of Rural Banks director Wilfredo Domo-ong said in a letter, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER. *Christine A. Gaylican*

DISCLOSURES

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved **Negros Navigation Co. Inc.**'s capital restructuring, bringing down the number of its common shares by 2,496,459,375 to 277,384,375. In view of this, the trading suspension on its shares is set to be lifted today.

* * *

APEX Mining Co. Inc. said it had no material information explaining a decrease in its share price on Wednesday other than the information contained in its annual and quarterly reports.

* * *

FEDERAL Chemicals Inc. said it was unaware of any event, incident or reason that caused the unusual movement of its share price from P7 to P4.20 on Wednesday. *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, January 10, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58	58	58	900,300
Citystate Savings Bank	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24.75	25	24.75	25	127,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	199	199	193	194	65,770
Philippine National Bank	64	64	64	64	8,900
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	28.5	27	28.5	21,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	16.5	16.5	16	16	6,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	47,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.24	930,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1320	1310	1320	960
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1040	1040	1035	1035	1,210
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	24	24	24	5,500
Diversified Fin. Network	4.55	4.55	4.5	4.5	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	280,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	685	685	680	680	17,890
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	1,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	427.5	435	422.5	435	42,160
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	8,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.25	22.5	22.25	22.5	28,100
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	30.5	29.5	30	1,923,800
Petron Corp.	1.48	1.52	1.48	1.52	2,965,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.7	2.75	2.6	2.75	7,004,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	40,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2	2	2	2	23,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	1,455,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	175,900
Pure Foods Corp. A	77	77	77	77	400
RFM Corp.	2.3	2.32	2.28	2.28	612,000
San Miguel Corp. A	44	44.5	44	44	32,200
San Miguel Corp. B	55	55.5	55	55	231,700
Universal Robina Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	30,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	80,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	1,000
Ayala Corp.	4.7	4.85	4.7	4.85	12,397,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.42	1.44	1.4	1.4	1,617,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.83	0.82	0.83	280,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.56	2,670,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.215	0.19	0.2	8,140,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	550,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.87	0.9	0.87	0.88	300,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	25.5	26	25.5	26	65,500
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	300,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	420,000
Ionics Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	468,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	160,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	1,200,000
Music Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.235	0.235	7,700,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	170,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	740,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.29	0.29	60,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	110,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Federal Chemicals Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	1,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	30,000
Pryce Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	31,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.47	470,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	60,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	800,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	28,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.75	24.5	23.75	24.25	207,700
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.74	1.82	1.74	1.82	99,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	680	680	680	680	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	4,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.005	43,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	2,474,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	350,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,680,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.37	0.33	0.37	9,220,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.76	1.9	1.76	1.9	7,921,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	70,000
SM Development Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	5,220,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	11,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.021	15,900,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	100,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	40,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	4,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,110,740	73,844,285.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	106,682,050	216,888,500.00
PRO	27,265,000	65,494,340.00
Mining	29,110,000	472,650.00
OIL	45,100,000	301,800.00
GRAND TOTALS:	210,267,790	357,001,575.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	496.27	DOWN 4.07
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,610.59	UP 14.02
PRO	534.72	UP 6.35
Mining	1,031.62	UP 6.70
OIL	1.99	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	696.61	DOWN 0.04
Composite	1,189.48	UP 5.80

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 39; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 91; NO. OF TRADES: 1,995

CURRENCIES

Jan.10, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.121831	1.000000	51.6460
Japan	Yen	0.008438	0.007522	0.3885
United Kingdom	Pound	1.612856	1.437700	74.2515
Hong Kong	Dollar	1.378023	1.228370	63.4404
Switzerland	Franc	0.675842	0.602446	31.1139
Canada	Dollar	0.702901	0.626566	32.3596
Singapore	Dollar	0.606953	0.541038	27.9424
Australia	Dollar	0.587346	0.523560	27.0398
Bahrain	Dinar	2.975837	2.652661	136.9993
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299955	0.267380	13.8091
Brunei	Dollar	0.605413	0.539665	27.8715
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000096	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025479	0.022712	1.1730
UAE	Dirham	0.305509	0.272331	14.0648
Korea	Won	0.000862	0.000768	0.0397
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.891400	46.0372
Brazil	Real	0.471357	0.420168	21.7000
Denmark	Kroner	0.134463	0.119860	6.1903
India	Rupee	0.023275	0.020747	1.0715
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.295219	0.263158	13.5911
Mexico	New Peso	0.121740	0.108519	5.6046
New Zealand	Dollar	0.480442	0.428266	22.1182
Norway	Kroner	0.125745	0.112089	5.7889
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018728	0.016694	0.8622
South Africa	Rand	0.098840	0.088106	4.5503
Sweden	Kroner	0.108115	0.096374	4.9773
Syria	Pound	0.021953	0.019569	1.0107
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032098	0.028612	1.4777
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001471	0.001311	0.0677

Shares rise 0.5%

(From page B1)

ela at Unicapital Securities.

"It was oversold in the past few days and it's really more of a technical play," he added.

Ayala Corp. added 15 centavos to close at P4.85 while its unit, Ayala Land Inc., added 10 centavos to P5.40.

A dealer with a foreign brokerage said he expected trading to remain lackluster in the near term as liquidity remained tight.

"To be at very attractive levels, the (composite) index has to fall to around 1,000 to encourage buyers and boost the market's liquidity," he said.

"Otherwise, foreign funds will just shift to other liquid markets in the region such as Thailand and Indonesia." *AFP*

Testing texting

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

SMART cell phone users should be able to seamlessly text GSM cell phone users in the US East Coast "in a matter of days," according to Smart spokesperson Ramon Isberto.

Isberto was reacting to Wednesday's item here reporting about the inability of Smart cell phones to text back GSM cell phones in New York.

He said the problem was confined to the New York and New Jersey areas, not the entire continental USA as had been reported here, a problem largely due to the ongoing consolidation of cellular phone companies in the United States.

"Despite repeated representations by Smart, the mobile switches handling the traffic in New York and New Jersey have not been properly configured to process text messages from Smart," Isberto said. "That is the root of the problem."

He did not identify the "concerned operator" but we take it to mean that he was referring to VoiceStream. "In contrast, subscribers of the same operator in other parts of the US have no trouble receiving text messages from Smart," Isberto added.

In any case, the "concerned operator has acknowledged that they need to reprogram the switches" and that Smart engineers have actually been running tests now for days to rectify the situation, he said.

Smart currently processes about 50,000 text messages a day to the United States, 5 percent of which are normally bound for New York and New Jersey.

Just like placing and receiving a phone call, a GSM cell phone anywhere in the world should be able to send to and receive text from any GSM cell phone anywhere in the world, so long as the telephone companies have interconnection agreement.

A text by a Smart subscriber sent to an overseas cell phone costs P10 or P15 per, depending on the subscriber's payment plan, as against the 40 US cents (nearly P21) a minute voice call.

A Smart subscriber sending text to a Smart subscriber who brought his cell phone overseas is still charged only P1/text, as if the Smart traveler never left Philippine soil.

However, the Smart traveler is charged P10 or P15 per text, again depending on his subscription plan, whenever he texts home. The higher toll rate to text back represents the toll fee charged by the host foreign telephone company.

Globe, we understand, charges about the same rates as Smart as regards overseas texts.

Local GSM cell phone subscribers, whether using Smart or Globe, should be able to send text messages to practically anywhere in the world except Japan and Korea, which uses non-GSM technology; Hong Kong, because of the so-called "number portability" problem with different operators; and France and Vietnam, which do not allow two-way textings.

Uzbekistan and Senegal, which have a sprinkling of Filipino expatriate workers, only allow voice, and not text, over their GSM networks, said Globe spokesperson Jones Campos.

Philippine subscribers should be able to text two-way to any Australian GSM cell phone except those served by Optus, which still does not have an interconnection agreement with Globe.

The same is true with China (except China Unicom), Indonesia (except Excelcomindo), Malaysia (except Time Wireless), Russia (except Sonatel), and Ireland (except Esal).

Carnival time

COLUMBIAN Autocar Corp., now controlled by Nichimen of Japan after Kia assembler/distributor Jose "Pepito" Alvarez ran into financial troubles, is launching today spruced-up Kia Pregio passengers vans at basically 2001 prices in an effort to steal market share from market leader and fellow Korean carmaker Hyundai.

Columbian is unveiling the Pregio Limousine Special, Kia's third- and top-of-the line passenger van now boosted by VCD with LCD television, for P849,000. Unfortunately for automatic enthusiasts, the Limousine, as well as the lesser Pregios, only come with manual transmission.

For those who want a Hyundai Starex configuration but prefer a much improved ride, Columbian is also launching the US-version Kia Carnival Sedona, but at a steeper price of P1.89 million. Like the Starex, the Carnival comes with automatic transmission, but with dual sliding doors and sliding sunroof, not to mention better rust-proofing, the bane of the gray-market Starex.

The launch coincides with the Kia national dealers convention being held at the Manila Mandarin.

Heard through the grapevine

ICTSI chair and i-Bank director Enrique Razon Jr. sent a text all the way from New York to say that Ramon Sy has already assured fellow shareholders of the International Exchange Bank that he would stay on as i-Bank president.

Despite Sy's decision, taipan Lucio Tan apparently remains a persistent suitor, dangling Sy a generous package to transfer and run either Philippine National Bank or Allied Bank.

Despite the smaller pay envelope, Sy has opted to remain at i-Bank because of professional satisfaction (gee, sounds like working for the INQUIRER), aside from his long-term fortune being tied up with the bank.

Sy and his select officer corps were given a 10-percent equity stake in i-bank as inducement when the bank was formed in 1995.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

PNOC unit seen completing study on gas pipeline

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

STATE-OWNED PNOC Exploration Corp. expects to wrap up within the month its feasibility study on building a pipeline from Batangas that would bring the Malampaya natural gas to Metro Manila.

PNOC-EC president Rufino Bomasang said in an interview yesterday that the study was almost complete and that the next step would be to form a consortium that would build the 100-kilometer pipeline.

According to industry sources, the venture would cost between $80 million and $110 million.

"There are many possibilities on which firms would be doing this project," Bomasang said. "We are willing to work with people who are interested in it."

But the PNOC-EC chief clarified that the decision on this rested on the energy department, which he said was inclined to think that the project was better left with the private sector.

"And this pipeline project does not necessarily belong to the Malampaya consortium," Bomasang reiterated.

The state-run firm holds a 10-percent stake in the Malampaya gas-to-power project, while project operator Shell Philippines Exploration BV and Texaco Philippines hold 45 percent each.

In an earlier interview, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said a joint venture among the many firms interested in the pipeline project was possible to accommodate all interested parties.

"There would be no bidding," Perez said. "This would likely be a joint venture."

He said interested firms included British, Japanese, Malaysian and local industry players.

"What is important is that the pipeline cannot be built until there is a major demand in Manila," he pointed out.

He explained that industries located along the pipeline's path represented too little demand to justify the development of the project.

Shell Philippines Exploration BV, which conducted its own study, said it was currently setting up plans for a $680-million integrated pipeline and power plant project for the downstream natural gas industry.

Bangko Sentral leaves interest rates unchanged

(From page B1)

Buenaventura said one of the reasons the bank did not move was because it was going to change the procedures for making its monetary policy decisions.

"This week, we are going to change the monetary system," Buenaventura said.

While the policy-making Monetary Board will continue to hold its weekly meetings, decisions on major issues such as interest rates will only be made every four weeks.

The next meeting to discuss such issues will be held next week, Buenaventura said.

The minutes of such board meetings will be disclosed to the public six weeks later as a way to boost transparency in the bank's decision-making process, he said.

Reuters

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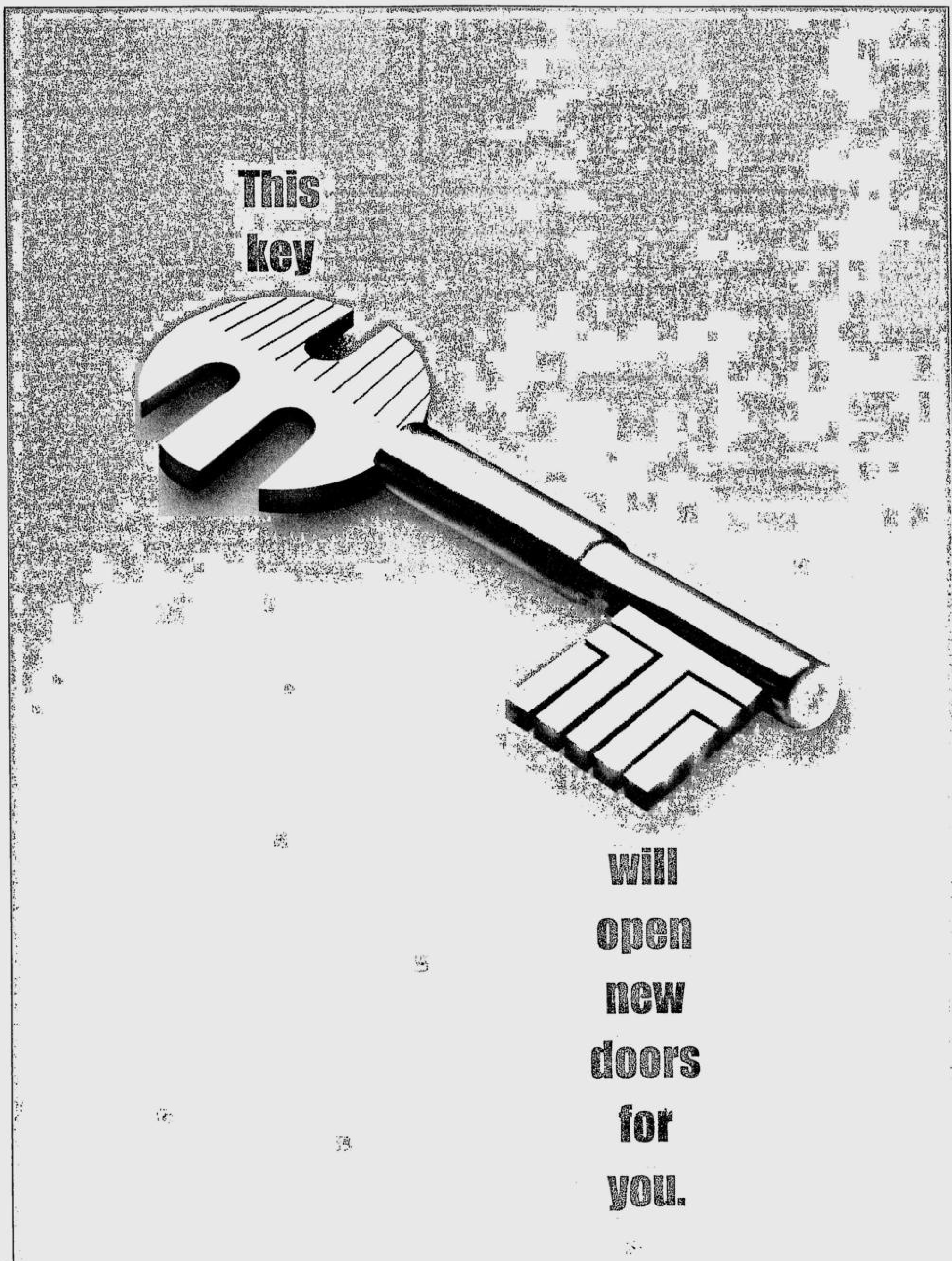
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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

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MARIKINA

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OTHER AREAS

Montecito Canlubang 3BR Brand New • 641-9346

Perpetual Village Bicutan 3BR Hse 8500/mo 8371937

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Mkt.Studio 2BR Tel/Prk 8906331

STUD furn freeH20 899-2148

MANILA

3BR 3TB 3sty nr. LSalle 8992148

MANDALUYONG

Wack² Heights 3BR w/pool gym sauna new 242-0922

QUEZON CITY

Burgundy Loyola Katipunan Pkng 2BR 25T • 641-9346

OTHER AREAS

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SAN JUAN

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TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

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•96 Grace P210T 330-3315•

•98 H100 265T 927-6597•

ISUZU

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

FOR RENT
(OFFICE)
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[FIRST CLASS]
6 EXEC. ROOMS
21 REG. ROOMS
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KIA

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•98Besta2.7 252T 9276597•

•98Pregio3.0 320T 9276597•

MERCEDES

•98 MB100D P368T 9276597•

OTHER CAR BRANDS

•98Topic 15str 225T 3303325•

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(1) **CLERK I**; SG-3; Item No. Ck1-30114; Completion of two years college studies; No experience required; Eligibility: Career Service (Sub-Professional) General eligibility for first level position.

(1) **WATCHMAN I**; SG-2; Item No. WCHM1-30001; Elementary School Graduate; No experience required; Eligibility: None required (MC 11, s. 96-Cat. III)

(1) **UTILITY WORKER I**; SG-1; Item No. UTW1-31311; Must be able to read and write; Eligibility: None required.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Spouses **SISENANDO S. SILVESTRE AND ROSARIO R. SILVESTRE** has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. #466 Page #95 Book XIX Series of 2001 Not. Public HENRY D. ADAZA of Manila (PDI-Dec. 28,2001, Jan. 4, 11, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **ROBERTO P. CUREG** has been extrajudicially settled by his hiers on December 21, 2001 under Doc 553, Page 3, Book VII, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Jovino R. Angel of Pasay City.
(PDI- Jan 11, 18, 25, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Fulgencio A. Reyes has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on Oct. 1, 2001 under Doc.#419, Page#84, Bk #1, Series of 2001 by Notary Public Rabiev Tobias M. Racho of Makati. (PDI-Dec. 28, 2001, Jan. 4, 11, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice of Lost Plates under the name of
TACIANA VILLEGAS
NYG274; NYG659;
NYG520; NYG336;
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NYG658; NYG496;
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INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD 2002-01

Rebidding Date: January 17, 2002 -- 10:00 AM

PB011206-PDED6947 **SERVICES: Supply of Labor, Materials & Supervision for the Fabrication of After & Inter Condenser Health of Palimpinon GPP**

*** Opening Date : January 23, 2002 -- 10:00 AM**
Ebidding Date: January 25, 2002 -- 9:00 AM
Pre-Bid Conference: January 18, 2002 -- 2:00 PM

2002-01-01 **UNSCHEDULED PARTS REQUIREMENTS OF HELICOPTERS RP-2860 & RP-2870 & BN2T ISLANDER RP-766 (Fuel Quantity/Oil Temperature Indicator, Conduit Assy., Bushing, etc.)**

2002-01-02 **PLAQUE, Clear Acrylic w/Polyester Resin Plaque, Clear Acrylic Base w/NPC Logo, No Sharp Edge**

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, D[illegible] Quezon City.

El[illegible] forms and bidding documents are available on **January 10,** 20[illegible]nt of P50.00 which is non-refundable.

[illegible] of issuance of eligibility and bidding documents is on [illegible]ry 17, 2002.

[illegible]eligibility forms and bidding documents mornings only, [illegible] For inquiries please call No. 921-25-74.

[illegible] reserves the right to reject any or all bids without [illegible]reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer [illegible]advantageous to the Corporation.

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•98Besta2.7 252T 9276597•

•98Pregio3.0 320T 9276597•

MERCEDES

•98 MB100D P368T 9276597•

OTHER CAR BRANDS

•98Topic 15str 225T 3303325•

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

•SALESMAN •
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FEMALE

Fitness Instructress & Lifeguard •5623962•09176916992•

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280730

COMPUTER SUPPORT/ PROGRAMMER AND WEBSITE DESIGNER Needed for full-time work in a well known beach resort in Puerto Galera or Mindoro. Interviews will be scheduled for the 14th of January in Makati City. Call 0917-8398530 for information and scheduled time

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Alay Lakad Foundation Qualifications: Graduate of any social science course, experienced in project and program administration, liasing and events planning /management. Age not over 35 years old Starting Salary : above P 10.000 Applicants personally submit biodata with 2x2 photo at 1680 Benelitoz corner Malvar Sts., Malate, Manila or call 522-6134/523-1539 for more information.

•FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING•
Female Cashiers & Male Janitors Call 823-4573/74 8AM to 5PM Monday-Friday

Nurses mdwivesPT4128599/7837127

Ofc Staff 9134470 Ms. FE

OFC STAFF 9134470 ANNIX

OFC STAFF Rush9134170 Mark

URGENTLY NEEDED!!!
FINANCIAL PLANNERS
& UNIT MANAGERS
•Male or female, 25 to 35 years old
•Graduate of any 4 year course preferably business
•With Sales Experience or talented in sales
•Good communication skills/Outspoken
•Hardworking and achiever
•P5,000 [illegible]
Basic [illegible]
Incentives (FP's)
•15,000 [illegible]
Comm., benefits [illegible]
tives (UM's)

Applicants may apply personally at:
NIPPON LIFE PHILIPPINES
Legaspi Branch
3rd Flr. Liberty [illegible]
Arnaiz St., Ma[illegible]
Tel Nos. 81[illegible]
817-3481 to 83
(Thursday & Friday
11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

WHOLESALE IMPORT-EXPORT COMPANY IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:
- **Clerk**
  Experience not required
- **Telephone Coordinator/ Telemarketer**
  With [illegible] presentation skills
- **Marketing Executive**
  With good communication and presentation skills
FULL TIME: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Part Time: 9 AM -12 PM
[illegible] PM / 6:30-8:30 PM
- **Licensed Pharmacist**
  Knowledgeable in Chinese Herbs
  For Part-Time
Interested Parties Please Call:
[illegible] 892-3331 and 892-3603
Address: Unit 2411 Herrera Tower
Herrera Street, Salcedo Village
Makati City

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

CORDERO PAWNSHOP
New Farmers Plaza QC
137 C. Palanca Quiapo
Cordero-Santos Pawnshop
2494 Taft Ave Pasay CORDERO South Pawnshop
2673 South Ave Mkt CORDERO SC Pawnshop
17A Zamora St SFDMQC Emcco Bldg. Meyc. Bul. Auction Sale on all expired loans from June 1, 2001 to July 31, 2001 on Feb. 2, 2002 at respective locations.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Bo. Kapitolyo 125m² Office or Shop Call 634-1212

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RIZAL EXPERIMENTAL STATION AND PILOT SCHOOL OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES
Maybunga, Pasig City

(1) **TEACHER I**; SG-10; Item No. TCH1-54195; Bachelor of Secondary Education or Bachelor's Degree plus 18 professional units in Education with appropriate major preparation; No experience required; Eligibility: Teacher.

(1) **CLERK I**; SG-3; Item No. Ck1-30114; Completion of two years college studies; No experience required; Eligibility: Career Service (Sub-Professional) General eligibility for first level position.

(1) **WATCHMAN I**; SG-2; Item No. WCHM1-30001; Elementary School Graduate; No experience required; Eligibility: None required (MC 11, s. 96-Cat. III)

(1) **UTILITY WORKER I**; SG-1; Item No. UTW1-31311; Must be able to read and write; Eligibility: None required.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Spouses **SISENANDO S. SILVESTRE AND ROSARIO R. SILVESTRE** has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. #466 Page #95 Book XIX Series of 2001 Not. Public HENRY D. ADAZA of Manila (PDI-Dec. 28,2001. Jan. 4, 11, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **ROBERTO P. CUREG** has been extrajudicially settled by his hiers on December 21. 2001 under Doc 553, Page 3, Book VII, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Jovino R. Angel of Pasay City.
(PDI- Jan 11, 18, 25, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Fulgencio A. Reyes has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on Oct. 1, 2001 under Doc.#419, Page#84, Bk #1, Series of 2001 by Notary Public Rablev Tobias M. Racho of Makati. (PDI-Dec. 28, 2001, Jan. 4, 11, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice of Lost Plates under the name of
TACIANA VILLEGAS
NYG274; NYG659;
NYG520; NYG336;
NYG346; NYG649;
NYG658; NYG496;
NYG364; NYG650

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giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD 2002-01

Rebidding Date: January 17, 2002 -- 10:00 AM

PB011206-PDED6947	SERVICES: Supply of Labor, Materials & Supervision for the Fabrication of After & Inter Condenser Health of Palimpinon GPP

* Opening Date : January 23, 2002 -- 10:00 AM
Ebidding Date: January 25, 2002 -- 9:00 AM
Pre-Bid Conference: January 18, 2002 -- 2:00 PM

2002-01-01	UNSCHEDULED PARTS REQUIREMENTS OF HELICOPTERS RP-2860 & RP-2870 & BN2T ISLANDER RP-766 (Fuel Quantity/Oil Temperature Indicator, Conduit Assy., Bushing, etc.)
2002-01-02	PLAQUE, Clear Acrylic w/Polyester Resin Plaque, Clear Acrylic Base w/NPC Logo, No Sharp Edge

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, [illegible] Quezon City.

[illegible] and bidding documents are available on January 10, 20[illegible] of P50.00 which is non-refundable.

[illegible] of issuance of eligibility and bidding documents is on [illegible] 17, 2002.

[illegible] eligibility forms and bidding documents mornings only, [illegible] For inquires please call No. 921-25-74.

[illegible] reserves the right to reject any or all bids without [illegible] reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer [illegible] antageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

PDI [illegible] 2002

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COOPERATION

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

The Integrated Community Health Services Project, a foreign-assisted project of the Department of Health is in immediate need of the following personnel for assignment in the Project Management Office:

One (1) PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER II

Minimum Qualifications:

- College degree, preferably health-related
- At least two (2) years work experience in development of foreign assisted projects
- Eight (8) hours of relevant training
- With experience in organizing workshops, meetings and documentation
- With excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficient in the use of Excel and MS Word

One (1) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Minimum Qualifications:

- Completion of two (2) years in college
- One (1) year of relevant experience
- Four (4) hours of relevant training
- Proficient in the use of Excel and MS Word

All interested applicants may submit their application letter with resumé and picture to BONIFACIO B. MAGTIBAY, Designated Project Manager, Integrated Community Health Services Project, 4th Floor, Philippine Tuberculosis Society Building, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Deadline for submission is on **January 18, 2002.**

(Sgd.) **MA. VIRGINIA G. ALA, MD, MPH**
Manager, UPMD

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing 2,650 MT (53,000 BAGS) more or less Calrose Rice Variety, Grade No. 1, at the indicative price of:

a. Ex-Warehouse Php P25/kg or P1,250/bag

on **January 16** and **24, 2002** at 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM at the Food Development Center (FDC) Lecture Room, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on **January 14** and **22, 2002** at 10:00 AM at the NFA Boardroom. In the pre-auction, interested bidders shall bring the following:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling).
b. Duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.

All interested bidders shall submit a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check from any reputable banks in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **January 11, 2002** at DMO OCD, 5th Floor from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. For any inquiries, please call tel. nos. 712-1572 and 712-1708.

Bidding documents will be available on **January 14, 2002** to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. In case of bidding failure, a pre-bidding/re-bidding shall be conducted at 10:00 AM at Food Development Center (FDC) Lecture Room, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila on **January 22, 2002** and **January 24, 2002**, respectively.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI – Jan. 9, 10 & 11, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested parties to submit sealed bids for Janitorial Maintenance and Sanitation Services at Matimyas and Tengsico Buildings, Motorpool, Hangar and Food Development Center needing around thirty eight (38) janitors. The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

January 11-15, 2002 - Issuance of pre-qualification requirements
January 22, 2002 - Deadline of submission of pre-qualification requirements
January 25 & 28, 2002 - Issuance of bid documents
January 30, 2002 (10:00 AM) - Pre-bidding conference
February 7, 2002
(9:15 - 10:00 AM) - Submission of bid proposals
(10:15 AM) Opening of bid proposals

Pre-qualification forms and requirements can be secured from and submitted to PBAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor, Matimyas Building. 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. For any inquiries, please call tel. no. 712-0453. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from PBAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable fee. In case of bidding failure, a pre-bidding/re-bidding shall be conducted at the same time at NFA Boardroom on February 21 and February 28, 2002, respectively.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **MICHAEL ANGELO G. PADERANGA**
Deputy Administrator & Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Jan. 10 & 11, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE
MUNICIPALITY OF PAOAY
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO BID

January 10, 2002

The Municipal Government of Paoay, Ilocos Norte is inviting interested parties/accredited suppliers to participate and submit sealed bids for the delivery of:

ONE (1) UNIT KATO CRAWLER-TYPE EXCAVATOR
GOOD CONDITION JAPAN SURPLUS
Model : HD 880 SE
Bucket Capacity : 0.8 CBM
With Extended Arm Length : 35 Ft. (Telescopic Type)
Engine Model : FUSO 6022 Diesel Engine
Track Shoe Overall Width : 700 G
Hydraulic Pump : UCHIDA JAPAN
Hydraulic System : Semi Pressurized with two full-flow filters

Interested parties/accredited suppliers may secure the necessary bid documents and information from the Office of the Municipal/Acting Mayor.

A PRE-BIDDING CONFERENCE for interested eligible bidders shall be held at the address given above on **January 14, 2002** at exactly 2:00 PM.

All sealed bids will be received by the Committee on Awards on or before 10:00 AM and then publicly opened at the above office at exactly 2:00 PM on **January 16, 2002.**

The Municipal Government of Paoay, Ilocos Norte reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect or formality contained therein and accepts the lowest bid that is most advantageous to the Municipal Government.

(Sgd.) **HON. JULIO A. CABACUNGAN**
Acting Municipal Mayor

(PDI – Jan. 11, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF SIQUIJOR
MUNICIPALITY OF SIQUIJOR
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date: January 11, 2002
Contract ID No. SPO2-01
World Bank Loan No.: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the Local Government Finance and Development (LOGOFIND) Project and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Completion of Siquijor Public Market Building II. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
2. The Municipality of Siquijor invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the completion of Siquijor's new public market with 32 stalls for fish and meat at the basement, 12 dry goods stall and 8 fruit and vegetable stalls at the ground floor. The whole of the second floor section will be allotted to six (6) fast food counters and two (2) restaurants. The total floor area is 1,244.16 sq.m. It also involves the construction of stall partitions and finishings in the basement and ground floor, provision for toilet facilities, completion of drainage system, reinforced concrete pavement of the peripheral roads, electrical works and preparation and completion of access road.
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting **January 15, 2002,** at the Office of the Mayor, Municipality of Siquijor for a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos Only (P2,000.00), or its equivalent in a freely-covertible currency, for each set. Interest bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of One Hundred Seventy One Thousand Pesos (P171,000.00) and shall be delivered to the Office of the Mayor, Municipality of Siquijor, Siquijor on or before **February 19, 2002**, at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. Bid security must be in the form of cash, cashier's check or bank guarantee.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 PM, **January 30, 2002** at the Office of the Mayor, Municipality of Siquijor, Siquijor.

(Sgd.) **FIDELITO A. AVANZADO**
Municipal Mayor

(PDI – Jan. 11, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The government thru the Department of Finance (DOF)/National Agriculture and Fishery Council (NAFC) has endorsed to NFA the monetization and disposition of the remaining 157,500 MT of imported yellow corn under the FY 2001 PL 480 Title 1 Program of the United States of America.

The corn shall be pre-sold thru Sale Thru Market Determined Pricing (SMDP).

All interested yellow corn users who intend to participate in the bidding should be guided by the following:

1. The volume shall be 157,500 MT yellow corn, disport Manila and Subic.
2. The quality specification is US Yellow corn No. 2 in bulk.
3. The indicative price is set at P7.30/kilo for the commodity. However, offerors shall inform the NFA the point/mode of withdrawal whether:
   a. Ex-FOT bulk
   b. Ex-FOT bagged
   c. F.O. silo
   d. FOW
4. A pre-bidding conference shall be conducted on January 14 and 21, 2002 and the bidding proper on January 16 and 23, 2002 at 2:00 PM at the Food Development Center (FDC) Lecture Room, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.
5. The bidding shall be open to all legitimate poultry and hog raisers/feedmillers and other end-users who are registered with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) as corn users as of January 2002.
6. A bid bond equivalent to 5% of total auction offered amount in the form of either cash/manager's/cashier's check/Letter of Credit (L/C) payable to NFA shall be required from interested bidders. The L/C shall be irrevocable at sight and valid for thirty (30) days.
7. The bidding for the 157,500 MT is subject to the Terms and Conditions set forth by the NFA. All interested bidders are required to secure the Terms and Conditions from the NFA at its Marketing Operations Department, 5th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.
8. The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgement are most reasonable and advantageous to the Government.

For further inquiries, contact NFA-DMO at telephone numbers 712-15-72; 712-15-64; 712-19-28.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI - Jan. 9, 10 & 11, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing 31,782 MT (635,640 BAGS) more or less US Long Grain Rice Variety, Grade No. 2, at the following indicative prices:

a. Ex-Vessel - Php P16.50/kg or P825.00/bag
b. Ex-FOT - Php P17.00/kg or P850.00/bag
c. Ex-Warehouse - Php P18.25/kg or P912.50/bag

on **January 24** and **31, 2002** at 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the Food Development Center (FDC) Lecture Room, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on **January 22** and **29, 2002** at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom. In the pre-auction, interested bidders shall bring the following:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling).
b. Duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.

All interested bidders shall submit a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check from any reputable banks in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **January 21, 2002** at DMO OCD, 5th Floor from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. For any inquiries, please call tel. nos. 712-1572 and 712-1708.

Bidding documents will be available on **January 22, 2002** to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. In case of bidding failure, a pre-bidding/re-bidding shall be conducted at 2:00 PM at Food Development Center (FDC) Lecture Room, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila on **January 29, 2002** and **January 31, 2002**, respectively.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI – Jan. 9, 10 & 11, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
OLD NAWASA BLDG • 176 ARROCEROS STREET • 1000 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
In Compliance of RA 7041

1. OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
OMB-Proper

CLERK II, Item No. OMBA-CK2-1-1998; SG-4; Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service (Subprofessional) First Level Eligibility.

2. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR
Prosecution Bureau

SPECIAL PROSECUTION OFFICER III, Item No. OMBA-SPP03-12-1998; SG-28; Education: PD 1275 "Members of the Prosecution Staff shall be selected from among qualified and professionally trained members of the legal profession who are of proven integrity and competence and have been in the actual practice of the legal profession for at least five (5) years prior to their appointment or have held during the like period, any position requiring the qualifications of a lawyer."

SPECIAL PROSECUTION OFFICER II, OMBA-SPP02-35-1998; SG-27; Education: PD 1275 "Members of the Prosecution Staff shall be selected from among qualified and professionally trained members of the legal profession who are of proven integrity and competence and have been in the actual practice of the legal profession for at least five (5) years prior to their appointment or have held during the like period, any position requiring the qualifications of a lawyer."

3. CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE
General Services Division

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IV, ITEM NO. OMBA-AD04-1-1998; SG-22; Education: Bachelor's degree preferably in Sanitary, Electrical or Mechanical Engineering; Experience: With three years of relevant experience preferably in building administration; Training: 16 hours of relevant training preferably in building administration; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility or RA 1080.

Interested applicants should submit on or before January 25, 2002 to the Human Resource Management Division, at the above address an application letter stating the position item applied for, duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212) "1x1" picture (colored), Certificate of Eligibility, Transcript of Records, Certificate of Seminar/Training attended (CSC accredited) and Certification from previous/present employment stating the position, actual duties and responsibilities.

This amends the Bulletin of Vacant Positions for Administrative Officer IV published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on October 5, 2001.

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11/F, 8A Lepanto Building
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines
Tel. No. (02) 841-0644
Telefax No. (02) 810-8418

Brgy. Batangas Dos
Mariveles, Bataan
Tel. No. (047) 244-7441
Telefax No. (047) 244-5883

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING AS AMENDED

The PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) in good standing to apply for qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I. Work Order No. : **WSC-01-004**
II. Project Title : **Earthworks and Slope Protection Works of PRII Expansion Area II**
III. Scope of Work : Clearing and grubbing to include removal of obstruction, excavation, backfilling, spreading and compaction up to the required elevation, completion of CHB Perimeter Fence enclosure and drainage manholes.
IV. Minimum Equipment Requirement :

Equipment Description	No. of Units
1. Bulldozer, 200-225 HP	3
2. Bulldozer, 300-335 HP	2
3. Payloader, 4 cu. yd. capacity	1
4. Dumptruck, 10-15 cu.m. capacity	12
5. Road Grader, 125 HP	2
6. Vibratory Compactor, Sheeps Fooy, 9-10 Tons	3
7. Vibratory Compactor, Smooth Drum, 9-10 Tons	3
8. Water Truck, 10,000 Liters capacity	1

V. Project Location : Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
VI. Approved Budget : Pesos Twenty Seven Million One Hundred Twenty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eight and 10/100 (P27,126,908.10)
VII. Source of Funding : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
VIII. Estimated Contract Duration : One Hundred Thirty Five (135) Calendar Days
IX. PCAB License Minimum Requirement
License Qualifications
Classification : General Engineering
Category : A
Registration Qualifications
Kinds of Project : Road, Highway Pavement, Railways, Airport Horizontal Structures and Buildings
Size Range : Medium B
X. Similar Contracts : Land Site Development such as General Earthworks and Slope Protection Works
XI. Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Requirement : Pesos Two Million Seven Hundred Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Ninety and 81/100 (P2,712,690.81)
XII. Eligibility Statement Forms : One (1) set each to be filled up and submitted for every project
Cost of Forms : One Hundred Pesos each set (P100.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : January 8-21, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Statements/ Documents : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation, 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department or PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation, Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan, c/o Site Administration Department
Deadline of Submission : On or before **January 28, 2002** at 3:00 p.m.
XIII. Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility
Date and Time of Issuance : January 21 - February 18, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation, 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
XIV. Pre-bid Conference Date and Time : March 14, 2002 at 9:30 a.m.
Venue : PPDC Conference Room, PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation, Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan, c/o Site Administration Department
XV. Bid/Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents
Cost of Documents : One Thousand Pesos each set (P1,000.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : February 21 - March 06, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation, 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department or PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation, Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan, c/o Site Administration Department
Deadline of Submission : On or before April 12, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.
Place of Submission : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation, 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
XVI. **BID OPENING IN THE SAME VENUE WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Prospective bidders are required to submit original copy of Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate/s and original copies of pertinent documents such as Contractor's PCAB License, audited Financial Statements, etc. for verification/authentication purposes.

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(PDI – Jan. 8, 11 & 16, 2002)

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EDITH COLIVER

The Asia Foundation is saddened by the news that ***Edith Coliver****, long-time staff member and the Foundation's Representative in the Philippines from 1979 to 1988, passed away on December 27, 2001 in San Francisco, California.*

Ms. Coliver was a woman of remarkable accomplishments. She served as a translator at the first UN Conference in San Francisco and as an analyst and translator at the Nuremberg Trials. She was with The Asia Foundation from the very beginning in the early 1950's and spent 40 years as a forceful advocate for the Foundation's work, with a penchant for tireless activism in support of democracy, human rights, and greater opportunities for women. In 1979, she was sent to the Philippines as the Foundation's first woman Representative. She played an important role in supporting independent civil society organizations, including human rights organizations, before leaving in 1988 to become the Foundation's Representative in Taiwan. She developed countless and lifelong friendships in Asia and the U.S. during her years with the Foundation.

Ms. Coliver's alma mater, the University of California, Berkeley, honored her in 1999 as "Alumna of the Year." She stated on that occasion, "I've worked with different cultures, but the principles and values have always been the same. I have just tried to prevent oppression and expose hypocrisy." She leaves behind an indelible legacy and she will be sorely missed.

Messages of condolence to the Coliver family can be sent c/o The Asia Foundation, 36 Lapu-Lapu Drive, Magallanes Village, Makati, or via email to general@asiafound.org.ph.

CONSUELO GUZMAN RAMOS

of Balayan, Batangas

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 7, 2002 at the age of 101.

The children of her brother **Jose** (†), **Cecille** and **Bert de la Cruz**, **Alice** and **Raul Bihis**, **Lenit** and **Alexis Ramos**, **Tito** and **Nora Ramos**, **Olive Ramos**, **Ramon Ramos**, **Jojie Ramos**, **Ferdie** and **Sonia Ramos**, **Manny** and **Ning-ning Ramos**, their 12 sons and daughters and 20 grandchildren;

The children of her sister **Eufrocina** (†), **Eleanor** and **Jose Olona**, **Grace** and **Vic de Jesus**, **Norma** and **Mai Bucal**, **Boy** and **Chady Aquitania**, their 14 sons and daughters and their 14 grandchildren;

The children of her brother **Catalino Sr.** (†) and his wife, **Conchita Topacio Nueno**, **Ben** and **Ver Ramos**, **Peling** and **Carol Ramos**, **Jun** and **Helen Ramos**, **Philip** and **Corito Ramos**, **Neny** (†) and **Philip Judan**, their 20 children and their 6 grandchildren;

The children of her sister **Dionisia Ramos** (†), **Rolando** and **Starlet Ramirez**, their 9 children and their 3 grandchildren;

And her other relatives and friends;

Request all those whose lives she had touched in the century she was with us to pray for the eternal repose of her kindly soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Ramos ancestral residence on Progreso Street in Balayan, Batangas.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 13, 2002 at the Balayan Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Church.

In Loving Memory

We, the family of the late

MA. LOURDES CHUA TAN

of Calentong Construction Supply

who joined our Creator on January 8, 2002

convey our sincerest thanks to all those who condoled with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, went to the wake and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and in many unknown countless ways, in the hour of our bereavement.

Mama, we love you so much and you will stay in our hearts forever...
Sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren...

We thank the Lord for the Life of

DR. ILEANA A. MARAMAG

July 24, 1929 - January 9, 2002

Friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Faith Chapel, St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 12, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at Don Bosco Parish, Makati City.

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More OBITUARIES on pages B10 and B11

Open communication leads to fewer children

MORE men are now willing to discuss family planning with their wives/partners than in 1998. This is a positive sign for the family planning program. Studies show that the more women are able to discuss family planning openly and comfortably with their husbands/partners, the greater the chances for couples to adopt a family planning method that suits their needs, and make it possible for them to have only the number of children that they want to have and when to have them.

This was one of the findings of the impact evaluation survey of the 2000 national family planning communication campaign presented at a research forum entitled "Are we reaching our family planning target audience?" held recently at the Traders Hotel Manila. The research forum was sponsored by the Department of Health (DOH) and Johns Hopkins University with funding support from the US Agency for International Development.

The evaluation survey sampled 2000 respondents composed of single and married women of reproductive age, 15 to 49 years old, from urban and rural areas nationwide.

Dr. Loreto B. Roquero, Jr., director of DOH's Center for Environmental and Family Health, who presented the survey results, said that spousal communication on family planning went up from 49,7 percent in 1998 to 53 percent in 2001. It was higher in rural than in urban areas, he said. Spousal communication is highest in Cagayan Valley, CAR and Southern Mindanao. Cagayan Valley has the highest rate of contraceptive use according to the 2000 Family Planning Survey conducted by the National Statistics Office.

The survey also showed that TV and radio are still the most effective way of generating public awareness about family planning in the country. The survey showed that use of modern contraceptives increased by 4.7 percentage points following the family planning TV campaign period in 2000. The campaign was carried out on nationwide TV from August to December last year.

In concluding his presentation, Roquero said than an intensified communication campaign on family planning using not only TV and radio but also non-traditional means of communication would help more couples to adopt a family method that is suitable to them.

Other presentors at the research forum were D. Lawrence Kincaid, PhD., senior advisor for research of the Center for Communication Programs of the Baltimore-based Johns Hopkins University and Ramon San Pascual, acting executive director of the Philippine Legislator's Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD).

Kincaid discussed the technical implications of the national family planning communication campaign impact evaluation survey. San Pascual presented the preliminary results of the Legislators Political Mapping Study on Family Planning/Reproductive Health for the 12th Congress.

FUJI XEROX DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT FORUM LAUNCHED

Philippine Fuji Xerox Corp. (PFXC) recently launched the Xerox Document Management Forum, a two-day exhibit and seminar that demonstrated the company's renewed strategy geared towards offering simple and easy document management services and solutions for people and organizations. The most advanced Fuji Xerox multi-performance digital products, both hardware and software, were unveiled before an audience composed of representatives from different businesses and industries as well as the media. Live product demonstrations also enhanced the appreciation for these solutions that promise to boost the productivity of various companies in the Philippines. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was presided over by (from left) Mikee Ebrahim, PFXC manager for system solutions; Jerome Crame, PFXC manager for product promotions; Romy Serrano, PFXC president; Toshikatsu Kanaoka, EVP for marketing and business operations; and Koichi Koh, vice president for office solutions group.

BITS Clips

Tanjutco clan homecoming

THE YEARLY homecoming of the Tanjutco clan of Hagonoy, Bulacan and Apalit Pampanga will be held at the ancestral house of Sto. Niño, Hagonoy, Bulacan on Saturday, Jan. 12. The clan includes the Olivas, Bustos, Sanvictores, Buensuceso, Roa and Tanjangco families. For details, clan members can call Nenette Sanvictores (372-3891), Ding Tanjutco (926-6849), lawyer Carol Tanjutco (899-57768) or Dolly Çastillo (427-1728).

Timeless @ Rockwell

BALLADEER-for-all seasons Bert Nievera greets the Year of the Horse with a rare treat, a free concert at the Rockwell Center in Makati City on Jan. 12, Saturday, at 8:30 p.m. Billed "Timeless @ Rockwell," the first musical extravaganza of 2002 features the enduring balladeer with the 30-piece symphony orchestra. Guest conductor is multi-awarded composer and musical director Danny Tan. Timeless @ Rockwell also features today's hottest divas Dessa and Jinky Llamanzares with special performances by noted pianist Emy Munji and the country's singing quartet, The Opera. ''Timeless @ Rockwell'', presented by Lipton Ice Tea, will be held at the Power Plant Plaza, a stone's throw away from the newly opened Country Waffles branch in the Power Plant Mall.

PLM ASA reunion

THE PAMANTASAN ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) Association of SALT Alumni (ASA) will hold its first reunion on Jan. 12 at the Corporate Inn Hotel, T.M. Kalaw, Manila. ASA is a group of PLM graduates who were members of SALT or the Student Advancement Through Leadership Training. It is a group of student leaders who have been trained to assist the University to continuously achieve academic excellence. The ASA reunion is being organized with the help of the dean of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) Bernadette Sacop. For details call 526-6882 or Jasper Espino at 0919-2229800 or Olga Biso at 0917-6900081.

PSME meet at Manila Midtown

THE MANILA Midtown Hotel is the proud venue of Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers' (PSME) 16th assembly of chapter presidents, officers, and directors on Jan. 11 to 12. 84 PSME Chapters will be represented on the two-day event. Highlights of the PSME assembly include: a national board meeting, lecture on effective chapter management, workshops, distribution of 2002 PSME plans and programs and fellowship. Board of Mechanial Engineering (BME) chair engineer Antonio Ro. Herrera has been invited as keynote speaker.

Arellano High '54 reunion

MEMBERS of Class '54 will be having their annual reunion at Arellano High School on Teodora Alonzo Street, Manila on Saturday, Jan. 12 at 2 p.m. For details, call Dodo Angus at 826-0455; Caloy Castro, 822-3101 or 0916-3211179; Jun de Guzman, 842-6291 or 843-8454; Essem Perez, 844-5461 or 843-9798; Monsy Hernandez, 252-4507; Jean Puno, 924-2131; Fred Caparas, 941-6554, or Emmie Lecaros, 254-0381.

CLEAN BAYANAN CREEK

Nestle Philippines Inc. (NPI) recently affirmed its support for the Muntinlupa City Government's River Rehabilitation Program by embarking on a five-day intensive clean up the Bayanan Creek. The project was done in cooperation with Muntinlupa Lake Management Office, the Environmental Sanitation Council, the Sagip-Ilog Environmental Armies, the Alabang and Bayanan barangay officials and the Purok 2, 3 and 6 Homeowner's Association.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ALBAY
Municipality of Malinao
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: January 11, 2002
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. RI MPC 01413 04 CS-A for the Construction of an Integrated Warehouse with Solar Drier at Comun-Soa, Malinao, Albay. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined the guidelines:

Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Malinao, Albay and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following subproject:

Description of the Project: Construction of a One Unit Warehouse with Solar Drier at Barangay Comun-Soa, Malinao, Albay with the following items of work:

ITEM NO.	WORK BREAKDOWN STRUCTURE	QUANTITY
I	EARTHWORKS	
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	B. Backfilling and Filling Materials	70.00 cu.m.
II	Concrete Works	101.00 cu.m.
III	Masonry Works	339.80 sq.m.
IV	RSB	7,585.00 kgs.
V	Forms and Scaffoldings	7,282.00 bd.ft.
VI	Doors and Windows	Lumpsum
VII	Electrical Works	Lumpsum
VIII	Plumbing Works	Lumpsum

BID SECURITY P50,000.00
Bid Closing Date February 13, 2002, 2:00 PM

MINIMUM EQUIPMENTS REQUIRED:
One Bagger Concrete Mixer, Concrete Vibrator, Steel Bar Cutter

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders at above office starting **January 21, 2002, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) only.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **January 28, 2002, 2:00 PM** at the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Malinao, Albay.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Malinao, Albay, on or before the Bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid deemed to be the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) HON. EMILIANA T. KARE
Municipal Mayor/Chairman-PBAC-ARCDP

(PDI – Jan. 11, 2002)

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"You will forever be in our hearts, Mommy"

EPIFANIA F. COSME

Was lovingly called by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to dwell in the House of the Father forever on the morning of January 8, 2002.

She will be most missed by her children **Toots, Tatchie, Doris, Eggie, Nenette, Jigger, Leah, Eva & Analee**; daughters-in-law **Ellie, Baby Rose, Nita & Jocy**; sons-in-law **Ed, Bing, Elec & Jun**; grandchildren.

Her body lies in state at Chapel A-1, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. She will be laid to rest at La Loma Cemetery on Sunday, January 13, 2002 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

ESTER PORCIUNCULA VDA. DE CATAMBAY

Peacefully joined our Creator on January 8, 2002 at the age of 83.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at #48 Celso T. Catambay Street, Tanay, Rizal.

Interment will be on January 13, 2002 after the 2:00 PM Mass at Tanay Catholic Church.

RP seeking $800M in loans from Japan

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE government is seeking about $800 million in fresh loans from Japan this year, under the 26th yen loan package, to fund crucial infrastructure projects.

National Economic and Development Authority Deputy Director General Gilbert Llanto said Japan, the country's biggest bilateral donor, would begin by February or March the policy consultations for the new loan package. He said the list of projects would likely be finalized by April.

"We expect that the 26th yen loan package this year will amount to $700 million to $800 million, almost the same level as the 25th yen loan package which was signed last year," Llanto said.

Llanto said a Japanese appraisal team visited the country in November last year in preparation to the new loan package.

"There was an improved utilization of Japanese loans based on this latest official development assistance portfolio review," Llanto said.

He noted that Japan accounted for about 60 percent of the ODA funding that the country has been getting yearly.

"We haven't finalized yet the list of projects to be included in the 26th yen loan package but the bulk of the money will most likely go to infrastructure development projects," Llanto said.

Among the big ticket projects likely to be included in the 26th yen loan package, Llanto said, were the Boulevard 2000 road project and the Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway project. The second project, which was estimated to cost P20.55 billion, is being handled by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

At the same time, Llanto said Japan had agreed to adopt more favorable terms for the next yen loan package, which will be renamed "special term for economic partnership" starting July this year, to enable developing countries like the Philippines to hedge against foreign currency risks.

Llanto said the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Japanese government's official development assistance arm, was willing to lower to 1.55 percent from 2.2 percent the interest rate on the 20-year loan.

He also noted that the country would be given the option to shorten the repayment period and to determine which of the loans would really be useful to spur national development.

PNOC-EDC's budget for drilling up 150%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PNOC Energy Development Corp. has earmarked P1.68 billion for its drilling operations this year, up by 150 percent from last year's P675 million.

PNOC EDC chair Sergio Apostol said in an interview that the move indicated the firm's efforts to step up its local and overseas drilling activities.

"We are accelerating our drilling program this year as we also go full swing with the exploration and development of our new geothermal projects," Apostol said.

The former Leyte congressman said the state-run firm was set to drill 15 new wells, including its geothermal projects in Negros.

PNOC-EDC is currently working on a proposed $40-million, 40-megawatt geothermal facility in the province. It is expected to go on-stream by 2004.

Apostol also said PNOC-EDC would be pursuing exploration activities in Mt. Lobi in Leyte, Mt. Cabalian in Southern Leyte and Rangas Tanawon in Sorsogon.

He explained that the potential steam field in Mt. Lobi could be as big as the one in Tongonan (also in Leyte) where PNOC-EDC operates a power plant complex.

The geothermal potential of the Mt. Cabalian prospect was placed at 110 mw while that of Rangas Tanawon was 20 mw.

Apostol said the firm would also do maintenance work on 32 existing wells.

In 2001, PNOC-EDC drilled only five new wells and did maintenance work on 14 existing ones.

Further, Apostol said the firm had secured its third geothermal drilling contract with Papua New Guinea's Lihir Management Co.

Under the contract, PNOC-EDC would drill for Lihir at least 16 shallow wells, or wells that are a kilometer deep at most.

Apostol added PNOC-EDC was also bidding for a drilling contract with a company in Brisbaine, Australia.

The Brisbaine project would require the winning bidder to initially drill two deep wells, or ones with depths of 5 km or more.

PNOC-EDC owns and operates eight onshore drilling rigs and has been exporting its drilling expertise since 1999.

Gloom and doom

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

NO one would wish to be a prophet of doom, especially if gloom would make his life difficult. This column would love to see a better year in the labor front and would certainly relish the joys and advantages of a robust economy, prosperity for both workers and capitalists, industrial harmony and an improved service delivery system to help both employers and employees cope with the rising challenges of a globalized economy.

But the indications are generally gloomy. Emerging events do not augur well for both business and labor. We can discern socio-economic, political and ideological turbulence in the horizon. Terrorism won't be contained. Political intrigues are bound to exacerbate the investors' suspicions about this country, as kidnappings, bombings and unsolved murders go on unabated.

Bigger labor force, more unemployed

The promise to create a million jobs each year and the projection to reduce unemployment won't be fulfilled. On the contrary, more and younger people are joining the labor force. They won't be absorbed by the industries that are beset with escalating labor costs and highly eroded bottom lines.

The main anchor of this administration's employment policy is overseas jobs. This year, however, it is projected that the demands for OFWs will substantially diminish. Even our maids in Hong Kong and Singapore are no longer considered competitive in wages. Other economies with cheaper labor costs are giving our OFWs a run for their jobs. Our competitive advantage in terms of skills and language is now being challenged seriously by other migrant workers..

Too little training

Our training budget is just a dust particle compared with the tremendous resources poured into the AFP for military build-up and to the Department of Education to make up for decades of education backlog. This year, about a half of the DOLE budget is heaped upon Tesda to build up the workers' capability. But as we wrote last week, Tesda is far behind in its training thrust and technology.

Tesda has regional offices all over the Philippines. These offices were already in the regions since the NMYC days in the '70s and '80s. Billions of pesos in funds were spent for their operations and maintenance. But then again, their impact, if any, on the life of the people is minuscule.

No protection for labor

If the DOLE believes that inspection is equivalent to protection, it needs to rethink its paradigm. Inspection of payroll and work premises has not been proven to be an effective tool to enhance the health, safety and welfare of workers. But it has proven to be a potent source of corruption and extortion.

This year, the inspection of establishments will yield a higher percentage of non-compliance with labor standards, not because firms love to violate labor laws but they simply cannot afford to comply with these standards. No inspection can ever change that situation. Only higher productivity and a better profitability can make a difference.

All wage, no productivity

The National Wage and Productivity Commission (NWPC) has always been into wages and commissions but it has not done anything about productivity. The Productivity Incentives Law has died an unlamented death. Nothing was heard of from the NWPC. All they do there is to talk about increasing labor cost. No help for the enhancement of business capability.

SSS, GSIS: Weakest links

Of all the agencies created for labor, these two white elephants have continued to be a burden rather than a help to the workers. Worst of all, their executives enjoy fantastic salaries, SSS and GSIS funds are invested in irrelevant and speculative ventures that do not at all help the workers. Ongoing Sandiganbayan proceedings expose the indecent investments made under the past regime. This year, they will just improve in their PR schemes. No potential for service enhancement.

More strikes

The NCMB itself was quoted to have predicted an upsurge of strike notices this year in view of many expiring CBAs and many more layoffs, business retrenchments and closures. We agree and more. As the wage boards continue to raise the workers' expectations, the workers' frustration level shall rise.

Thus, there is a need for more conciliators, mediators, voluntary arbitrators and arbiters. These unsung heroes in the DOLE should be recognized and paid more than the labor attachés who do nothing but junket and peddle cheap labor abroad in the name of the almighty dollar.

More layoffs

More business firms will close in 2002. Mark my word. This government has approved a P781-billion budget, P264 billion will fund the salaries and benefits of 1,070,132 personnel of a burgeoning bureaucracy. P360.2 billion will pay our foreign debt. Thus, more taxes will be imposed on business and the workers.

Investors would hate to pay taxes to a government that can not solve murders or catch the kidnappers without US intervention. Thus, these investors will most probably leave for good even as our own citizens are rushing to get US and Canadian visas to leave this God forsaken land. Thus, we'll have more layoffs and downsizing in 2002.

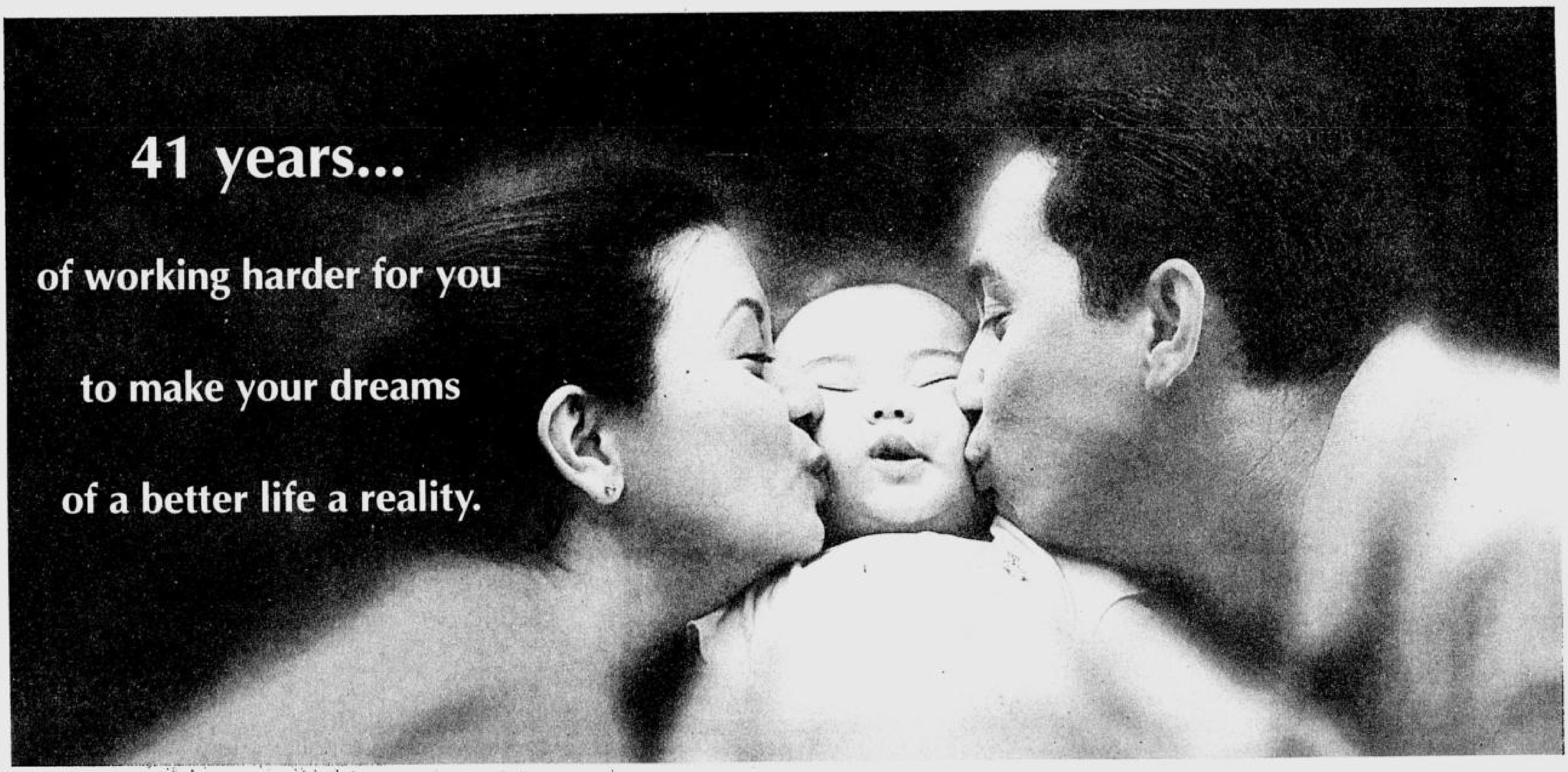
More cases, more delays

The path of least resistance is to transform strike notices to arbitration cases. We don't have enough labor arbiters and commissioners to cope with the rising volume of labor disputes. The legal staff are reportedly underpaid, demoralized and lacking in due recognition. Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas and Chair Roy Señeres are trying to appease the ranks. We should support them.

Appointments are dictated by big labor and big capital. There is no promotion of arbiters to commissioners except when politicians intervene. Thus, cases will be delayed and the anger, frustration and low morale will translate into poor service to the clientele.

Our jobs will be more difficult in 2002. But we have to accept the emerging gloom so that we can act accordingly. Mark my word.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)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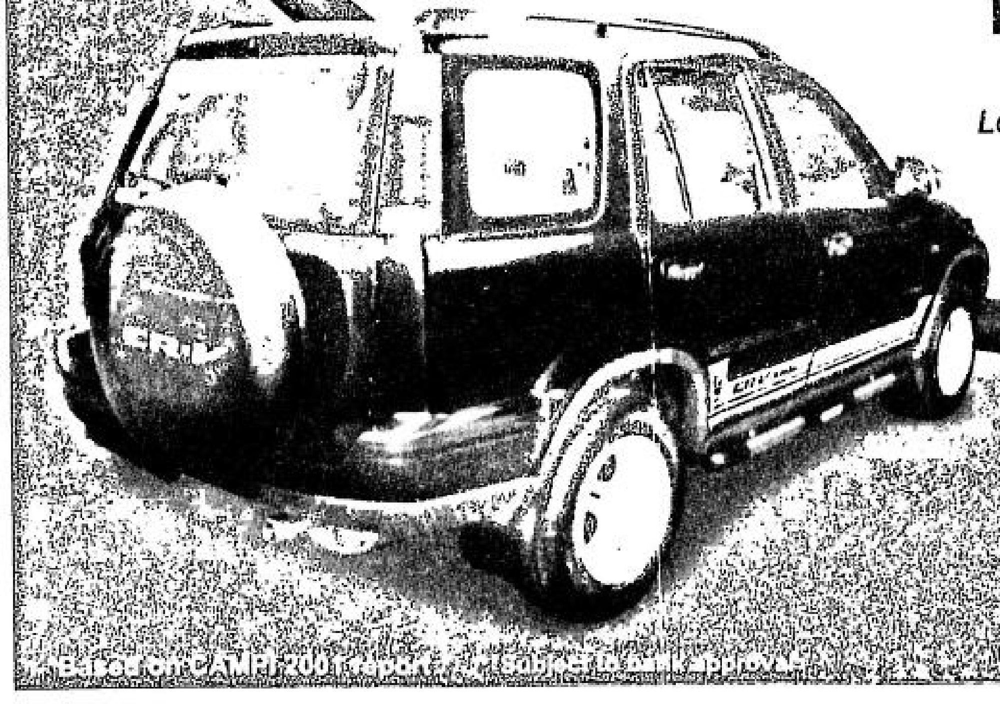

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Announce with deep sorrow the passing away of
our beloved Board Counselor

KIYOSHI OSAWA

Who died on 10 January 2002 at the age of 96.

His remains will lie in state at the
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel
Magallanes Village, Makati City
from January 11 to 12, 2002.

The chapel is open only from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

(In lieu of flowers, the Osawa family will appreciate donations to the KO Foundation and prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.)

SY PIAN PIAN VDA. DE GO KUT

October 29, 1909 — January 10, 2002

Peacefully joined our Maker at the age of 92.

Her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren

Anita and Luis (+) Juantong
Jaime and Roma, Mary and Juanito (+), Leon and Susan,
Lilia and Carlos, Luis Jr. and Mary, Tomas and Jo-an
Janilla and Jed Ryan; Jay Millard, Jayne Mauve and Jessie May;
Michelle, Mazi Ann and Meryl Joy; Cherie Lou; Christine; Timothy John and Trixie Johanna

Jorge and Elena Go
Ricky and Stephanie, Joy Margaret and Eric
Jorge Matthew, Sean Richard, Kimberly Christine and Katherine Tracy; Jason and Justin

Billy and William Khu
Noreen and Edmund, Brian and Mary Ann, Warren
Edward Nathan and Natasha Elizabeth

John and Ellen Gobenghuy
Ely Jevon, Cherry May, Abraham and John Jr.

request relatives, friends, and the pious reader to pray for her eternal rest. Her remains lie in state at Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati. Interment will be on Wednesday, January 16, at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 7:30 a.m. necrological service at Capilla del Señor.

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October 29, 1909 — January 10, 2002

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John Gobenghuy, President

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VDA. DE GO KUT

October 29, 1909 — January 10, 2002

Mother of
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John Gobenghuy, Vice-Chairman

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VDA. DE GO KUT

October 29, 1909 — January 10, 2002

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The Board of Directors, Management, and Staff of

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VDA. DE GO KUT

October 29, 1909 — January 10, 2002

Mother of
Jorge Go, Chairman
John Gobenghuy, Director

The Board of Directors, Management, and Staff of

JSG Securities Inc.

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SY PIAN PIAN
VDA. DE GO KUT

October 29, 1909 — January 10, 2002

Mother of
Jorge Go, Chairman

Airline tries to fly by picking up the missionary routes

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

WHILE the big three airline companies have been slugging it out to get customers in the main routes such as Manila to Cebu, Davao or Cagayan de Oro, one airline company has been busy making a name for itself as the airline of choice for local and foreign tourists.

Asian Spirit, with its fleet of 10 propeller-driven aircraft, has built its operations around the philosophy of connecting the main tourist destinations to the main cities of Manila and Cebu, thus, helping solve the tourists' problem of accessibility.

It also wants to fill the vacuum left by dominant player Philippine Airlines when it pulled out of some of its so-called "missionary routes" as part of its restructuring program.

Asian Spirit currently flies to 15 destinations, the four main routes of which are from Manila to Boracay, Bohol, Baguio and Busuanga. There are plans to eventually add Basco, Batanes to the list once the economy recovers.

It also flies to Calbayog, Samar; Catarman, northern Samar; Marinduque; Masbate, Masbate; Naga, Camarines Sur; San Jose, Oriental Mindoro and Virac, Catanduanes.

Commuters

"Commuters and tourists are our main customers. They are the ones who were no longer being serviced by the other airlines because these routes were no longer considered as profitable for them," says Asian Spirit executive vice president Joaquin Ernesto L. Po.

Po says limiting Asian Spirit's operations to these routes makes it easier for them to market the airline because there is virtually no competition, as it is the only scheduled airline firm that goes to these places. A scheduled airline means the plane flies within specific schedules whether there are passengers or not.

There are other airline firms that fly to these routes, but these are chartered flights, which means that there is no fixed schedule.

Asian Spirit's aircraft carry an average of 40 passengers. The smallest are 19-seaters and the biggest are 50-seater airplanes. The average age of these aircraft is 15 years.

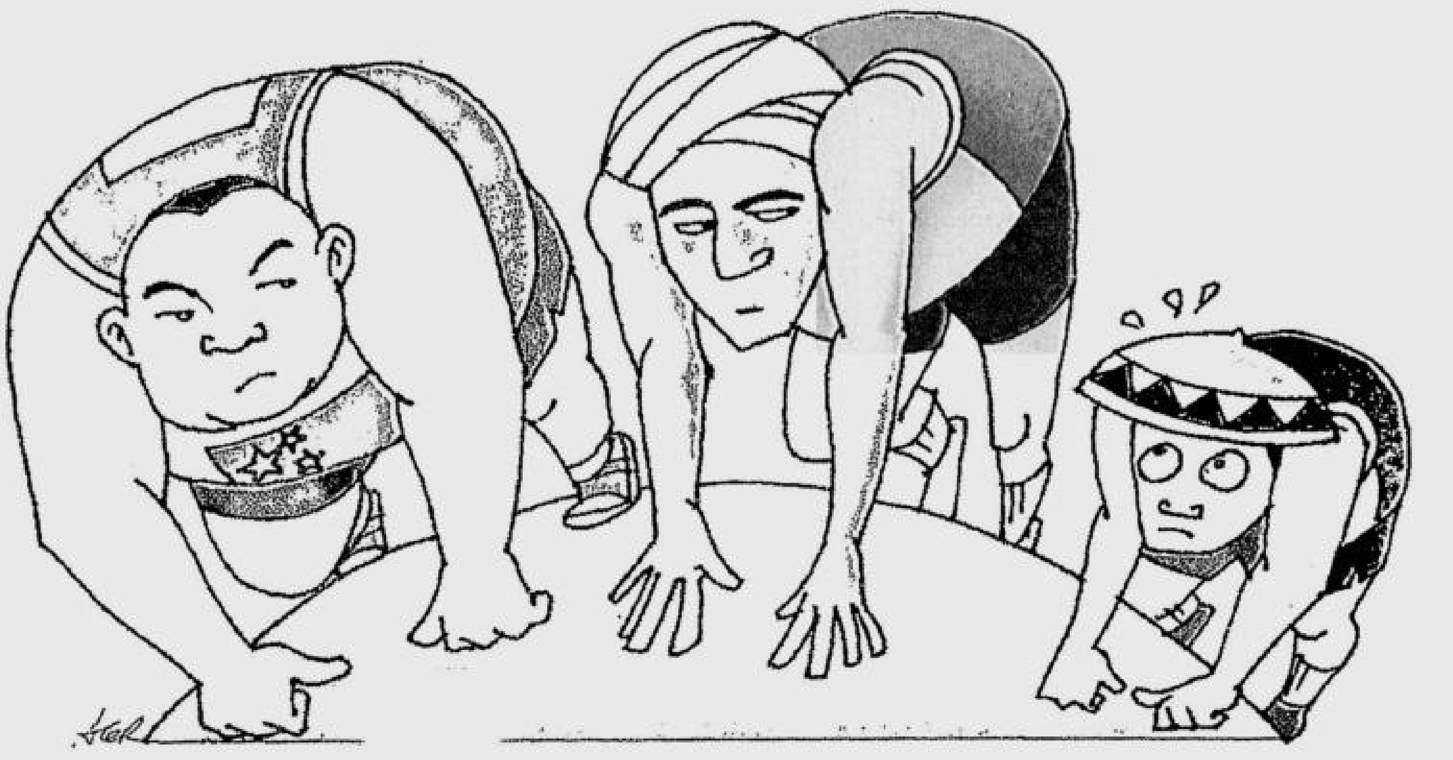
Asian Spirit was formed in September 1995 by a group of professionals from various sectors of the airline industry. They were the first local cooperative in the airline industry and the 36 founding members started "The People's Airline," the first to do so.

Asian Spirit started flying to the four desti-

AIRLINE/ B13

Playing the 'business Olympics'

BY ARLENE E. LIBERAL



PARTICIPATING in the global market is similar to joining the Olympics. Athletes who win gold medals come from countries whose athletes are well trained, well fed, well equipped, and well endowed.

In sporting events like boxing where efforts are made to "level the playing field" and players are matched according to their weight, the Filipinos do get to win.

But a Pinoy victory in the Olympiad is still more the exception than the rule, isn't it? Similarly, global market players are countries with different endowments in natural resources, cultural orientation and values, and levels of economic and political development.

Some countries are better equipped and prepared to compete than others. In the global markets, there is no "leveling of the playing field." Only the fit will survive.

In the past, the Philippines depended on cheap labor to entice foreign firms to set up their factories in the country for their export business. A good example is the garments industry.

Today, that advantage no longer exists with the opening up of other developing countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and China, whose wage rates are lower than those of the Philippines. As a consequence, many foreign investors have moved out of the country.

The feedback from the Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines (Fobap) and the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem) is that Filipino entrepreneurs seem slow to streamline their operations to align with world market standards.

This may be why many of them lost some of their customers to other countries.

How may the Filipino entrepreneur shape up for the business Olympics?

Entrepreneurs can take a leaf from experience and learn from those who have taken initial but decisive steps to go global.

Organize for strategic advantages. The Meycauayan Jewelry Industry Association (MJIA) has put up the Philippine Jewelry Center where world-class goldsmiths are trained and where common processing facilities are made available.

On the other hand, the Philippine Jewelers Guild is tackling the problem of international marketing by setting up a marketing consortium.

Get professional help. Rex Dagdag, handicraft entrepreneur from Jaro, Iloilo City, wanted to shine in an international trade fair he was about to join. He engaged the services of a designer from the Product Design and Development Center of the Philippines (PDDCP).

The designer helped him create new designs according to what was "hot" in countries abroad for that season. The designer also guided him on what products to offer and how to cost materials as well as gave him a hand in putting up an impressive display booth. That year, the fair yielded substantial orders for Dagdag in contrast to previous years when he came home almost empty handed.

Create, innovate. Ramon Castillo, who is in the electronics sector, sees product development as a hedge against tightening competition. So he has begun to offer multiple services to offset the market share grabbed by the competition.

Gigi Campos, a handicraft exporter-producer, makes it a point to keep in touch with what's happening in the world. Know the trends, read the forecasts, find out what the competition is doing, she urges fellow entrepreneurs.

She has also demonstrated in her operations how to use indigenous materials as a competitive edge. As a result, she has something new to offer her buyers each year.

Take advantage of information technology. Contrary to fears of the uninformed, IT will not necessarily marginalize small businesses but rather equalize opportunities for them.

Castillo did product development by surfing the Net for customer specifications and information on integrated circuits. After developing the products, he launched a Net-based marketing campaign, which cost him considerably less than if he ran it the old way. On the other hand, Jun Raquiza did programming operations, including computer aided designs and software development, through the Internet."

He points out that collaborative work between two firms, no mater how distant from each other, could go on 24 hours a day, especially if they are located in two different time zones.

Develop a niche market. Rosemarie Miguel made good use of market segmentation in her educational toy line. She identified this to be the high-end market for whom she has created labor-intensive and intricate designs.

She deliberately made the designs a tough act to follow to keep design "pirates" at arms length.

(Learn more about how to win in the global market place in "SMEs Going Global" on Jan. 22 to March 16. For more information, call Celia R. Pascual at 928-7076 and 926-6376 or Sonia Tiong-Aquino at 927-1034, 928-9238.)

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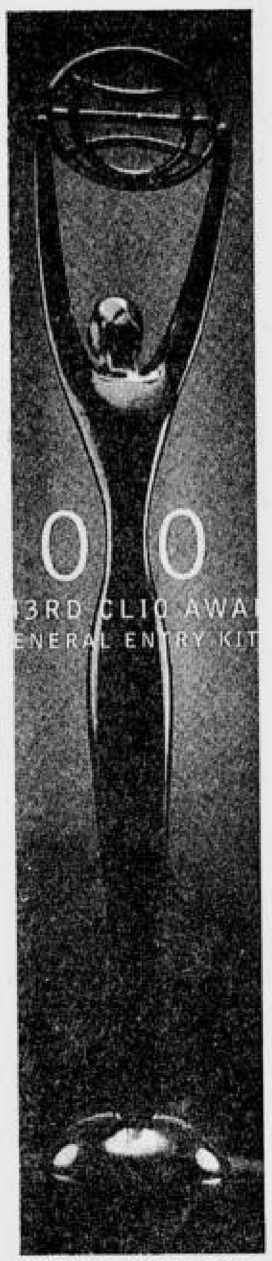
Will RP's creativity finally shine in this year's Clio Awards?

By Roger Pe



THE ELUSIVE Clio Statuette

WILL any of the winners at the Philippine Advertising Congress be good enough to compete in the world's biggest advertising derby—the Clio Awards, and win the country's first ever gold or silver statuette?

Has Philippine creativity made inroads over the last few years?

Judging from the few but worthy harvest of the recent Advertising Congress, which saw the higher number of entries, and the results of the Creative Guild of the Philippines Ad of the Month competitions, the Philippines could duplicate or surpass its 1997 Clio record this year.

High cost

But with budget cutbacks and other recession-related problems facing the ad industry, will the Clio even matter to some ad agencies?

Herminio "Minyong" Ordoñez, chair of Basic Advertising, says he is entering the Clio competition this year despite the awards show's pricey $300 per entry fee.

Asked why the Philippines has not made waves in the 43-year history of the Clio, unlike Singapore and Thailand, Minyong says, "It's the language, the imagery, and the culture. The judges there are familiar with their own idioms, metaphors, hyperboles, and imageries. If we want to win, we either become masters of nonverbals, universal humor, and pictures that speak a thousand words. We are not trained to do that because most of our mainstream ads are "*masa*" inspired using native instincts and expressions. You'll lose a lot in translating. If we want to win, we must craft our ads for Clio judges. It can be done."

Five-Time Creative Guild of the Year winner and Creative Partners' executive creative director/managing partner Mario Monteagudo, remarks that his agency has never lost in any international competition "simply because we haven't joined." Monteagudo says, "I don't see the point of spending our precious dollars on entry fees just to make a name outside of the country. But if you want, we will join this year. Just for kicks."

He adds: "Most award-winning ads in the recently concluded Ad Congress were patterned (if not copied) from ads found in those international award annuals. Ads specially designed to win awards. Ads catered not to the consumers but to the taste of the foreign judges."

But he is quick to say that "those ads are all qualified to be entered in this year's Clio and I wish them good luck!"

Why we don't win

Asked why Filipinos don't win the Clio, Monteagudo has this to say: "Well, it's just like the Olongapo rock bands don't win in the international Rock Awards. Answer: We're imitators. We may be good imitators but still imitators. You know, there is such thing as Japanese approach in advertising or very British or very French or very American.

If we want us Filipinos to truly make a mark in the international creative arena, we need to create advertising that's distinctively Filipino. Let's be original. Let's stop idolizing the West. Enough of colonial mentality. It's about time to rediscover that long-lost Filipino brand of creativity. And I believe, we can only do that by addressing our ads to the Filipino consumers. The very reason why we make ads."

Cirio Cinco, creative director of Image Dimensions and board director of the Creative Guild, the award-giving body of Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines (4A's), says "admittedly, I don't think any of our work is worth betting on, or spending on. "He says though that McDonald's "Karen" television ad should be entered in the Clio because it is real, universal, well-executed and has great talents. He also says that the reason why the country doesn't win in the Clio is because "maybe the ads that we enter are too American or British. Maybe somehow the judges think our work is just too familiar—they've seen it before and maybe, we're trying too hard to be as witty and cute like our American counterparts."

With a bounty harvest at the Ad Congress, BBDO-Guerrero/Ortega should dominate the Philippine contingent with its edgy Adidas, Baygon, Canesten and WWF print campaigns, along with its spectacular Zhang-Ziyi starred Visa Card television magnum opus.

Surprises

Leo Burnett could spring some surprises with its monster hit McDonald's "Karen" television ad and for its Bengay, 15 seconder television series.

It could also bring home the bacon for its Mr. Clean non-trad ads.

Basic should score for its Dole Pineapple Juice TVc. JWT for its wonderful Varemoid print and posters. Jimenez D'Arcy should put its bet on Sharp's Flat television ad "Belly."

Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi and DDB should enter their public service TV ads for PMMI and ABS-CBN, respectively.

The Clio, the Oscars of global advertising, has continuously eluded the Philippines for the past 40 years. Only in 1997 did it hit paydirt when Ogilvy & Mather, under erstwhile creative director David Guerrero and whom many call enfant teribile of Philippine advertising, went home with an astonishing first for the country—two bronzes: for Pepsi's "Say No To Coke" and Anvil Publications' "Critics" print ads.

The same year, DDB Philippines almost bagged a medal for its "Balota" print ad by scoring seven points in the first round.

Most recently, Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi, McCann-Erickson, Ogilvy & Mather, DDB Philippines and BBDO-Guerrero/Ortega scored big in the Clio finals, with the latter leading the way with a staggering eight shortlist citations.

Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi's "Package" television ad for Gabriela, McCann's "Newsprint" print ad for Mr. Sheen, Ogilvy & Mather's "Pencils" for The Economist, DDB Philippines' "Ammo" television ad, BBDO-Guerero's "Make-Up" and "Eye Shadow" for Kalakasan, "Now Open" for Adidas, "Gin" for Baygon Katol, "Toilet" for Folio, "Fats" for Bath2Basics, "Fence" for Adidas, "400,000 Babies" for Baygon were among the elite Philippine ad agencies which barged into the 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 Clio shortlist.

Significant year

This year's Clio Awards is most significant to the ad industry because a Filipino will be sitting in the panel of jury—David Guerrero, chair of BBDO-Guerrero/Ortega. "It is a tremendous honor to be part of the Clio 2002 print jury," says Guerrero. "Not only is it, as they say, 'the only advertising award your mother has heard of, it is also regarded as one of the best-run.' Judging is held over several days in Aspen, Colorado, well in advance of the show. So there's enough time to judge the work properly."

Guerrero believes that against the rest of the world, the Philippines has much better chances in print than TV. That's because a television commercial depends on the input of a far greater number of people—all of whom can profoundly influence the finished outcome. He says, "quite often, the difference in resources and experience is too great to overcome."

On Philippine ads that have chances of winning, Guerrero picks McDonald's "Karen" television ad and Bengay's "Japanese." In print, he says "I would not want to speculate in case I am accused of pre-judging the outcome. But I am hopeful at least one or two will reach metal."

Previously, the only other Filipino who has sat in the Clio jury was Yoly Ong, now chair of Campaigns and Grey.

Doctor's name turns to a brand

By Greg D. Garcia III

"VICKI Belo is a brand," Minyong Ordoñez, chair and CEO of Basic-Publicis Advertising and program committee chairman of the recent Advertising Congress hollered over the phone in reply to my question why he wants her to be a speaker.

Brands that take off from names of living people are normally associated only with fashion as in Ralph Lauren, Giorgio Armani or Prada.

But then there's Martha Stewart, who makes every housewife in the United States feel so inadequate, and there's Oprah, whose on-air recommendation can make any product an instant success.

In this part of the world, one measurement that you have become a brand is when the Hotdog band includes you in their song. In a yet to be released song titled "Gimik Girl," the music talks about a girl who intends to party until she's thoroughly spent after which she'll submit herself to Vicki Belo.

"You start aging after 25," Belo says.

After that it's good to have Vicki Belo around.

Belo studied at the UST Medical School and became a doctor of medicine and surgery in 1985. She then decided to gain more knowledge on how to fight aging every step of the way.

Belo went on to train in St.John's in London, Institute of Dermatology in Thailand and at the Scripps Clinic in San Diego.

In 1990 she borrowed money from her dad and brought back to the Philippines the first laser equipment for skin—a carbon dioxide laser. " Super *mahal*," Belo says.

But women in constant search of repair and maintenance just loved it.

"Uh-uh, not just women, men too," Belo was quick to point out.

You come in with really bad skin but after Belo works on your complexion with the laser, everybody starts complimenting you. "Too bad, they didn't have that when I was a teenager. I really had bad skin," Belo quietly confides.

In 1991, Belo introduced Tumescent Liposuction. Previous to this, the process of liposuction was a complicated, painful process.

With the Tumescent, Belo made it possible for liposuction to be an outpatient procedure.

"It's very safe and the process removes more fat," Belo explains. "It is less invasive," she adds, "and practically painless."

But having had a stint at Foote Cone Belding Advertising Agency in the US during her younger years, Belo was a believer in the power of marketing. "If you don't market your product, it's like winking at a girl in the dark, only you would know," she quips.

She needed to find a way to let more people know about the wonders of liposuction.

As fate would have it, the very sexy Rosanna Roces walked in one day. Like a masterpiece of a sculpture, Rosanna just needed a little retouching.

Which Belo professionally provided.

The result is, uh, as Rosanna would say, flawless.

What followed next was a series of unsolicited television endorsements from Rosanna.

Suddenly, having a liposuction was no longer something you talk about in whispers.

The argument was "if the very sexy Rosanna Roces can talk openly about her experience with liposuction and then flaunt the results, why should I deprive myself of a drop-dead body!"

Liposuction became an everyday word among women. "Men, too," Belo reminded me.

And "Vicki Belo" became part of lingua franca.

However, the problem with becoming too popular is you invite professional jealousy.

The medical profession didn't look kindly at the marketing success of the Belo Medical Group. Belo became the victim of rumors started and fanned, sadly, by colleagues in the medical profession.

The rumors ranged from Belo not being a doctor (not true) to Belo just being an aerobic teacher (well, she was in her younger years having trained at Jane Fonda-Beverly Hills).

In the end, happy clients triumphed over sour-graping competitors.

Liposuction is so strongly associated with Belo that it has overshadowed some of the best-kept secrets of her clients. Belo was first to introduce the Power Peel, the ultrapulse laser for wrinkle and scar removals, the Versapulse laser to remove tattoos, birthmarks and vascular lesions, the Light Sheer for permanent laser hair removal, and the "starvac" system for non-surgical breast enhancement.

This year, Belo has brought to the country the next generation of liposuction machine—the Laser Liposuction. " No knives, just laser," Belo quipped.

ACTRESS Rosanna Roces (right) made liposuction by Vicki Belo (left) a household phrase.

She also just introduced the Obagi Oxygen Facial. This utilizes the healing and anti-aging properties of pure oxygen to nourish the skin.

What has changed since she started her clinic in the early 1990s?

The market is getting younger, according to Belo. "There's a generation out there that believes in early maintenance. They are also lucky that there are a lot of outstanding new products and scientific findings now available that their parents didn't have access to."

When asked for her brand-building formula, Belo mentioned three:

1. You must always invest in new technology. Belo travels at least every two months to update herself with the latest developments with leading cosmetic dermatology surgeons.

2. Always give clients value for money. While the Vicky Belo brand exudes high quality, their rates are competitive with other industry practitioners.

3. Honest professional advice. As an example, Belo points out that they had to turn down liposuction would-be clients because of health reasons. "Liposuction is not the cure to obesity," Belo explains.

I have to add a fourth. Just as you wouldn't want to go to a dentist with bad teeth, you wouldn't want to go for cosmetic help from a doctor who needs one. One look at Dr. Vicky Belo and you know what the line Body from Belo means.

Taxation of expat employees and non-resident Filipino citizens

By Elena C. Dalumpines
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

EXPATRIATES' base salary and bonus may remain the same in their home country and in the country they are assigned to, but the total tax liability is different.

For instance, countries like the United States, Vietnam and Korea require that their citizens' tax be based on their worldwide income. Double taxation arises when the income earned in the country of assignment is also taxed in the home country.

The Philippines has entered into tax treaties with various countries to minimize the impact of double taxation on individuals.

For example, the Philippines and UK Tax Treaty provides that a UK citizen or resident working in the Philippines is exempt from Philippine income tax if his aggregate stay in the Philippines will not exceed 183 days in the calendar year.

The required stay may vary from one treaty country to another.

If the expatriate or non-resident Filipino alien is subject to tax, they are classified as follows:

(1) Non-resident aliens not engaged in trade or business in the Philippines.

(2) Non-resident aliens engaged in trade or business in the Philippines; and

(3) Resident aliens

The residency is determined by his intentions and by the length and nature of his stay. An alien who comes to the Philippines for a definite purpose that may be accomplished promptly is a non-resident.

However, he may be considered a resident if his stay is indefinite. Generally, a stay of more than two years makes an alien a Philippine resident.

A non-resident alien is presumed as not engaged in trade or business if he does not stay for 180 days in one year. On the other hand, a non-resident engaged in trade or business (NRAETB) is an alien who is actually doing business in the Philippines and whose aggregate days of stay exceeds 180 days.

NRANETBs are subject to a 25-percent flat tax rate on all types of income derived from the Philippines while NRAETBs are taxed using the graduated rates ranging from 5 percent to 32 percent.

Philippine-sourced income, for personal services, refers to the income received for services rendered in the Philippines regardless of the place where the payment was made, the service contract was negotiated, or the residence of the payer.

Aliens who are employees of the following multinational companies are not taxed in the same manner as mentioned above. They are instead taxed on their Philippine gross income at a preferential tax rate of 15 percent.

These multinational companies are:

a) Regional or area headquarters and regional operating headquarters;

b) Offshore banking units;

c) Foreign petroleum service contractors and subcontractors; and

a) Representative office but only until Dec. 31, 2001. Starting 2002, they shall be taxed at the graduated rates of 5 percent to 32 percent.

Gross compensation income includes all income payments received resulting from an employer-employee relationship, whether in the form of fees, commissions, bonuses, allowances, director's fees in cash or in kind, or similar items.

The following miscellaneous items, however, are excluded in determining gross income:

a. employee contributions to the Social Security System;

b. employee contributions to Home Development Mutual Fund

c. employee contributions to Philhealth;

d. 13th month pay and other benefits such as productivity incentives and Christmas bonus not exceeding P30,000 (RA 7833).

On the other hand, taxable income shall mean gross compensation income less personal and additional exemptions.

Every alien residing in the Philippines and every non-resident alien engaged in trade or business in the Philippines is required to file an income tax return regardless of the gross income.

The Philippine tax return is due for filing on or before April 15 of the following calendar year.

However, aliens that are subject to the final tax rate of 15 percent and 25 percent are not required to file the annual Philippine income tax return.

How are income taxes paid? If the tax due is in excess of P2,000, the taxpayer may elect to pay his taxes in two equal installments in which case, the first installment shall be paid on or before April 15 of the following calendar year and the second installment, on or before July 15.

If any installment is not paid on or before the date fixed for its payment, the whole amount of the tax unpaid becomes due and payable together with delinquency penalties.

An alien employed by private firms whether permanent, temporary or on provision and not over 60, is subject to a compulsory coverage.

Exemption

Beginning January 1998, non-resident citizens, including those working and deriving income from abroad as overseas contract workers and seamen engaged exclusively in international trade, are exempt from Philippine income tax.

A Filipino citizen is considered non-resident if:

- he established to the satisfaction of the commissioner the fact of his physical presence abroad with a definite intention to reside therein;
- he left the Philippines during the taxable year to reside abroad, either as an immigrant or for employment on a permanent basis.

(For comments and suggestions, please send an e-mail to sgvmail@Andersen WO)

Airline tries to fly by picking up the missionary routes

Asian Spirit

A TYPICAL 40-seater aircraft used by Asian Spirit.

(From page B12)

nations since the end of March 1996 and business was doing well until 1999 and 2000 when the spate of kidnappings in Palawan and Mindanao drastically reduced tourist arrivals.

It was already starting to pick up after some progress was made into solving the Abu Sayyaf problem but dropped again with the kidnapping at the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

"It has been a roller coaster ride ever since with some good days and bad, so what we are doing right now is to go for more of the local tourists, encourage them to see the Philippines and to ride our planes," Po says.

He, however, explains that it is a challenge to get more of the local tourists because Filipino travelers are not used to flying small propeller-driven aircraft. Foreign tourists, on the other hand, fly small planes almost exclusively for domestic travel.

"We try to encourage them to fly by giving them very affordable rates. The bottom line is that we are cheaper because we are not a jet, but we can give them the same, or even better, convenience," Po adds.

Tourists going to Boracay, for instance, can ride Asian Spirit and land on Caticlan island instead of to Kalibo, which is still more than an hour away from Boracay Island. They also have a choice of many flights during the day, so they can go to Boracay at their convenience, not the airlines'.

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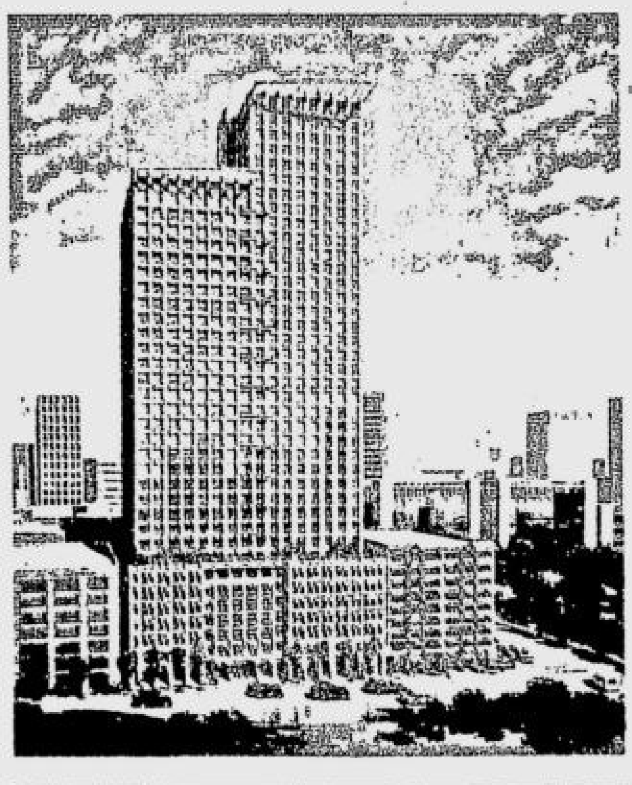

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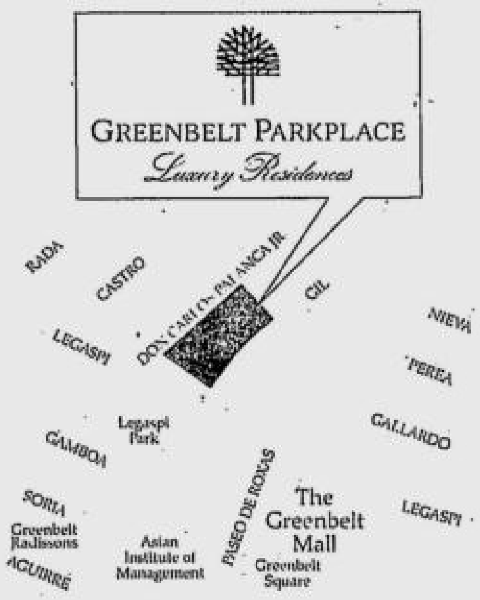
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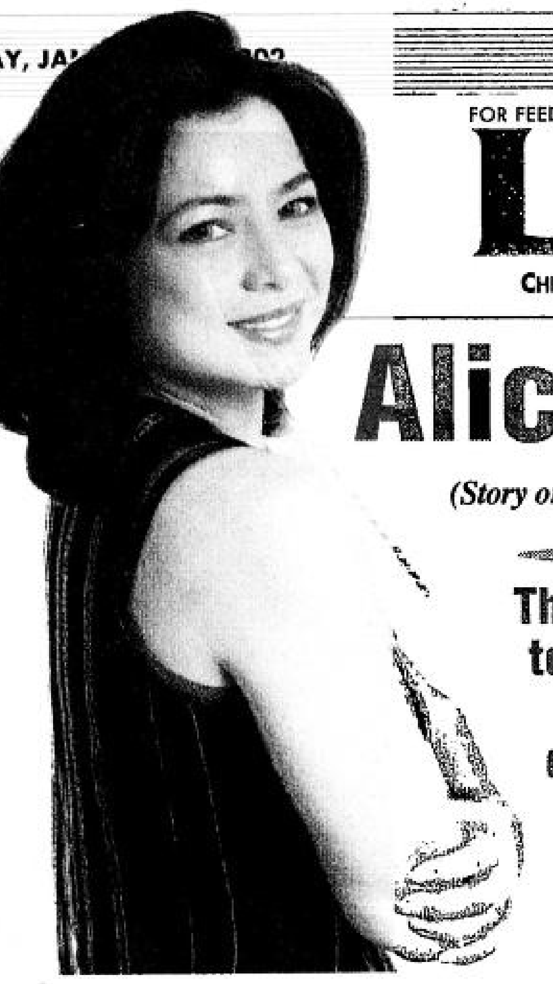

Alice in verityland

(Story on page C4)

The SLEX toll and other question marks of 2002

(Story on page C3)

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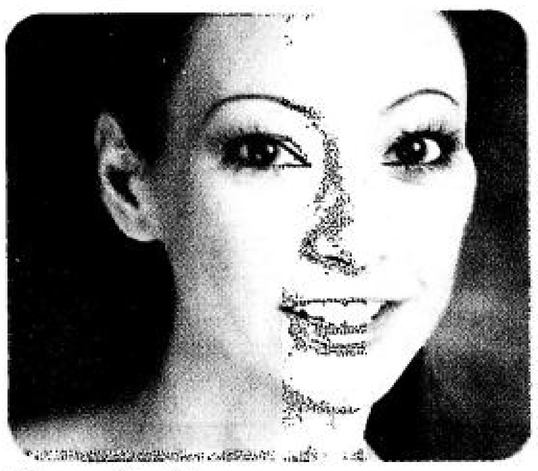

Repolishing '70s gloss

(Story on page C2)

Avoiding a rash in 2002

(Story on page C5)

Tokyo has nonstop street fashion show in winter

(Story on page C7)

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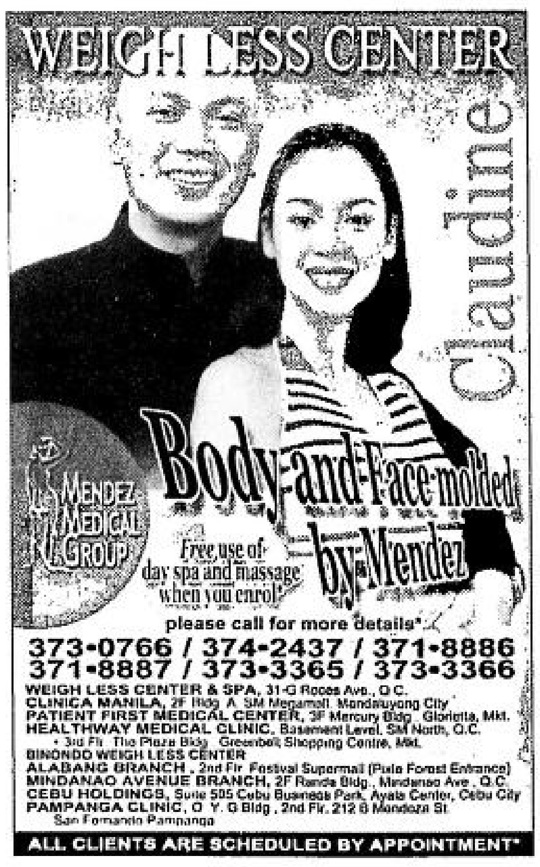

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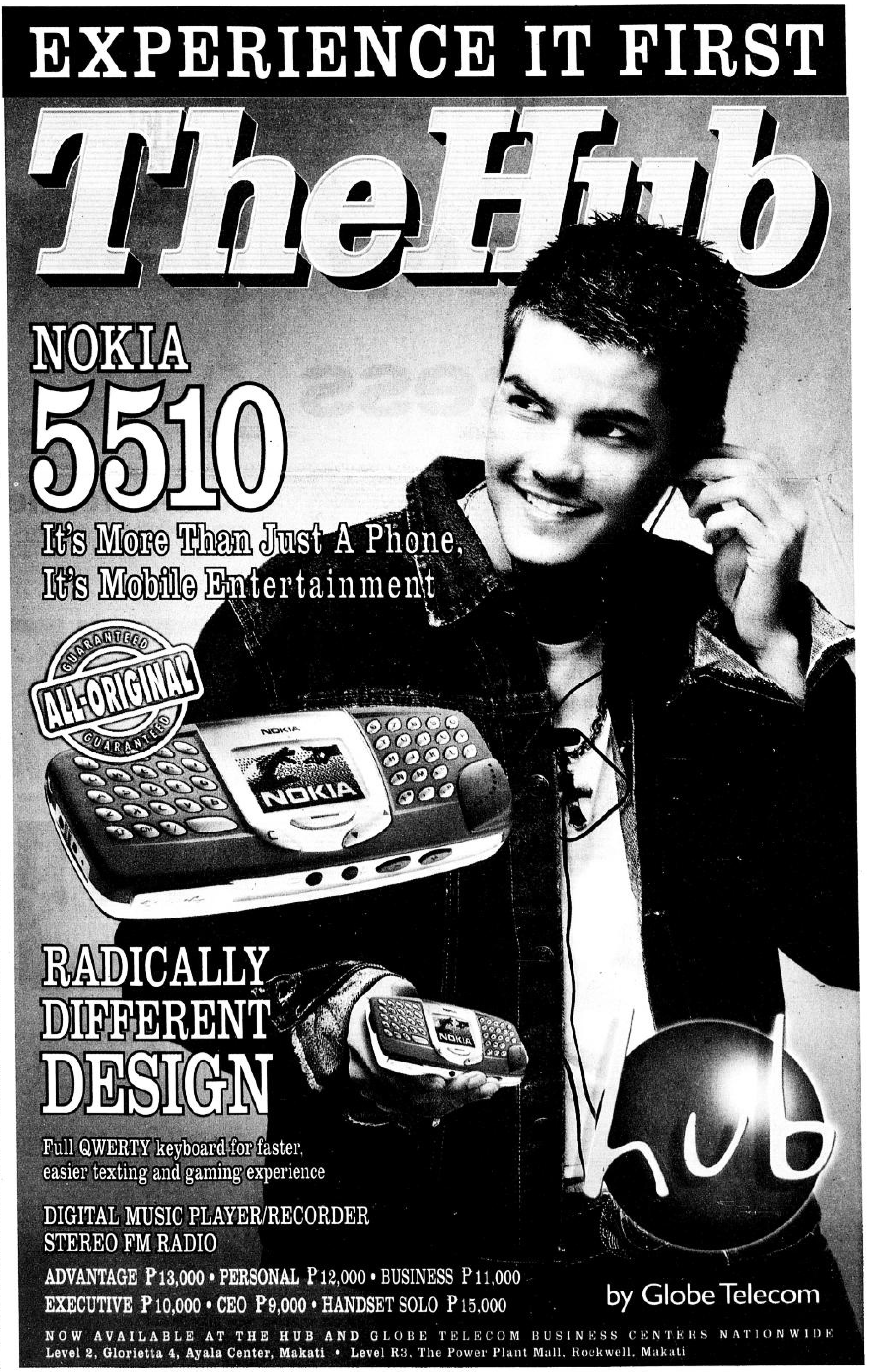

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Repolishing '70s gloss

PHOTOS BY PATRICK UY

INGENUE. Marga Valdes wears light green eye shadow, cheek gel and fuchsia lip gloss.

CALL it the revenge of the baby boomers. In the past decade fashion has been swinging between the '60s and '70s, doing a modern redux of the idiosyncrasies of those eras. Why? Because the decision-makers of this era grew up on those years.

Teenagers in the '70s recall that between the hippie and disco decade, parents who grew up in the '50s generated the nostalgia craze. Amid acid rock, fringed vests, salsa and polyester suits, teenagers also adapted the fads of the '50s such as the circle skirt and the boogie.

For 2002, makeup artist Patrick Rosas (Roehr Mega Fashion Awardee, Makeup Artist of the Year) brings back the looks of the '70s—piled-up hair that's teased and pulled back, thin brows a la Marisa Berenson, false eyelashes, cheek gels and lip gloss.

The latter is moistened lips dried up by the pigments of matte, long-wearing lipsticks. Unlike the powder blusher, the blushing gel, popular in the '70s, gives the impression that your cheeks have been pinched.

False eyelashes will be popular in parties again. Think of the movies of the '70s when directors insisted that Marissa Delgado, Chanda Romero and Alona Alegre wear fluttery lashes to enhance their emotional scenes.

PATRICK ROSAS. Works hard to make others look and feel beautiful.

For 2002, Patrick Rosas brings back the heap hair, thin brows, false eyelashes, cheek gels and lip gloss

SOPHISTICATED. Bea Valdes' '70s look—teased hair, Greta Garbo brows, individually placed false eyelashes, metallic taupe eyeshadow and pale lips.

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DOODY Tuason's hoop earrings, studded with currie-cut diamonds, and white gold bangle and neckpiece, were the accessory of the evening. She has adoring husband, Conkoy, to thank for.

JESSIE Mendes

MARIT and Tito Yuchengco

Red-letter new day

The Peninsula greets the new year in scarlet fever

THE YEAR 2002 was welcomed with elation and energy as symbolized by red, the color motif of the Peninsula Manila's ball. Men donned red neckties and bows to contrast their somber suits. Women favored vivid red. Combined with black, red looked sophisticated and mysterious.

SCOTT Bannon and Bea Zubiri

JOHNNY Velasquez and Maripi Muscat

RUBY Tuason

EDDIE and Emy Rodriguez

JOSEPHINE and Eirvin Knox

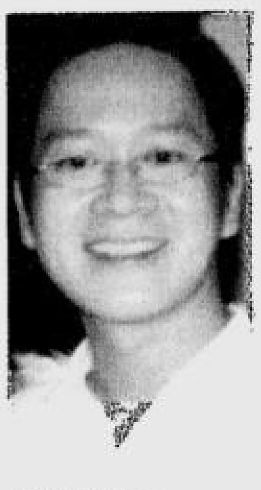
January 13, 2002 Issue SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

Lea Salonga Get Real

Theater icon Lea Salonga looks forward to a whole new phase in her career with her new play "Proof"

VIRGIE Ramos

EGGIE Apostol


JOJIE Lloren

RISSA Samson

MARNI Ocampo

The SLEX toll and other question marks of 2002

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

How do we motorists get our money's worth? Will 'Sex and the City' remain a fashion barometer? Will Inno catapult GMA to the list of the world's best-dressed leaders?

FROM JAN. 1 to the time **GMA** put the toll rate increase on hold, it cost me P24 to take the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) from Sucat, through C-5, to the office, and another P24 driving home, daily. That's P960 a month, if I take the SLEX at least five days a week, but I move around more than that. That's up from P660/month last year when the toll was P16.50 for my route. Trust the PNCC to make a math-disabled writer like me face the numbers every now and then.

We southerners have learned to live with toll fees and the rate hikes that come with clockwork predictability. Of course there are always protests, but in the long run we pay. So I'm not about to crow about the rate hikes, which are always a done deal anyway. What I want to see is—again—what motorists like me get in return for my monthly P1,000, at least.

Like, will the PNCC finally enforce the ban on vehicles that enter the SLEX without taillights, and these include huge cargo trucks, battered jeepneys and other nonroad-worthy vehicles? Or those vehicles crawling way below or zipping way above the speed limit? Will the PNCC apprehend buses that turn the SLEX into a Formula One course and are bound to crush us motorists? Will it make SLEX any safer? Will it improve the flow of cars into the tollbooths, which are always choke points?

The Skyway is an irony. You take it to cut travel time only to get stuck at the tollbooth far longer than had you taken the expressway, especially on Saturday nights. Will the traffic aides at the Sucat interchange finally have more sense in directing traffic? They're so unsynchronized you feel like you're being directed by a pack of blind mice. And at night, you can hardly see their hands. And, where are those emergency phones? In short, will the PNCC give us our money's worth? Better, will expressway travel be fully safe and convenient? Or, was I born yesterday to be asking these questions?

Lifestyle questions

Since we're at it, here are more lifestyle questions (so that counts out **Ador Mawanay**) we're anxious to see answered this year:

● When will we finally get rid of the trash on the streets? If Marikina can do it, why can't the rest of Metro Manila?

● Just how much uglier will Roxas Boulevard get? Many agreed with our observation that last Christmas was the dullest Roxas Boulevard ever got, in years, and we were told that the Department of Tourism every year has the budget to deck up the strip. Apparently this year DOT didn't see the need.

● Will we save our heritage sites such as the Banaue Rice Terraces and Vigan?

● What heritage/historic structure or architecture landmark will the Manila mayor get his hands on this year? There's still the old Luneta Hotel, you know. We hope that people with passion for history and heritage—and the expertise for their propagation—will be given positions of responsibility. We hope, for instance, that **Ambeth Ocampo** accepts the post at NHI—and be given an executive director to assist him.

● Will National Museum head **Cora Alvina** and Metropolitan Museum head **Ino Manalo** be able to pull off a first? Integrated fund-raising. Cora has this smart idea that instead of competing for funding from the limited corporate sources, the National Museum, the CCP and the Met must hold a single fund-raising campaign. That's one of the most sensible ideas we've heard from the usually fractious culture sector in years.

● Who'll finally head the NCCA this year and thus set the directions in the use of culture funds and resources, which are not meager by the way? Will s/he keep the professional management systems the **Laya-Almario** team and the board instituted, or will the NCCA backslide into political patronage especially in the giving of grants?

● Will people remain hooked on game shows this year? To show how irresistible this early evening habit has become, a colleague told me how his friend proposed marriage to his girlfriend: he hired the entire "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" show to pop the question to the lucky woman, off-camera. Of course, she said yes. ("Is that your final answer?")

● Will "Sex and the City" continue to be a fashion barometer? In the new season, an episode was shot at the Vogue office, no less, in the Conde Nast building, with **Anna Wintour** doing a no-dialogue cameo role. According to **Auggie** (who else? Cordero, the only creature I know who's happiest when with magazines), the negotiations between Vogue and "SATC" took almost six months, with Wintour not giving her nod, until the last minute.

Battle of fashion titans

● In the battle of the new fashion titans, will 2002 be the reign of **Rajo Laurel** or **Rhett Eala**? Or, will **Jojie Lloren** upstage both? Off the ramp, it's not easy to dislodge Rajo who's a consummate PR man. After his well-publicized show last year, he flew to Hong Kong where, at a tea party hosted by his loyal friend **Audrey Puckett**, he sold trunkloads of his collection. For his part, Jojie is turning out to be a very good designer, especially after his training in Paris. I took a good look at the tuxedo ensemble he did for Metro for our shoot in Hong Kong this month, and I must say it was really good and clean.

● Will **Inno Sotto** catapult GMA to the list of the world's best-dressed leaders? (Not that we want that to be her legacy.) This week Inno is rushing ensembles GMA will wear to a most important (foreign) media shoot. Then he'll have to finish the President's wardrobe for the US and Canada trips. This is a round-the-clock wardrobe, from travel to day business suits to formal eveningwear.

● Will it be the year of Greenbelt, Rockwell, Libis, Nakpil or Eastwood? Our guess is all of the above. If there's a crowd more fickle than the fashionistas, it's the nighttime set. One day a hangout is so in, the next day it's unheard of. That's because the night flock flits from one place to another. These days the favorite is Matti, the Greek resto at Rockwell, where the cuisine is a novelty yet good and apparently suiting the Pinoy palate, particularly its Matti Salata, Pasta Casserole, Lamb Souvlaki and its dessert Baklava. Good to check it out.

● Will the residential condos and office buildings that have mushroomed in recent years, finally have a full house?

● Will the hotels finally see good occupancy rates?

● Will the likes of **Karina Bolasco** and **Lory Tan** continue holding the banner for Filipino titles? It's admirable how people like them maintain or even accelerate their support for Filipino writers, exploiting the wealth of topics on Filipino culture and lifestyle, no matter the odds.

● What surprises will Philippine theater yield, again, against all odds? We await, for instance, the daring project of **Anton Juan** and **Behn Cervantes**.

● What surprises will **Ben Chan**'s Bench have this time? Likewise, the other retailers who continue to uphold local brands, again, amid great odds. We know for a fact that **Marni Ocampo** of Sari-Sari has a surprise in March.

Faces to watch

● Who will branding whiz **Virgie Ramos** discover next?

● Who is the face to watch this year? My guess is **Rissa Samson**—not because she's my godchild. She has not only that beautiful face but more important, the right attitude, the versatility and the intelligence to craft an image. That's an edge in Manila's sea of beautiful faces and bodies. Already, she's starting the year by being on magazine covers. In Chalk, paired with **Jericho Rosales**, she holds her strong presence and the result is beautiful chemistry.

● What will **Gilda Cordero Fernando** do this year? Her Pinoy pop book with Ben Chan last year was a milestone.

● Still on the country's agenda-setting women, what coup will **Eggie Apostol** pull this year, after her Pinoy Times? What more exciting battles will INQUIRER's "Mrs. M" (editor in chief **Leticia J. Magsanoc**) be facing, and will she finally quit smoking? (Doubt it.)

● Who will step into the shoes of **Yves Saint Laurent**, who retired just now? **Tom Ford** and Gucci have taken over the fashion house, but I mean, the YSL as design genius of the late 20th century.

● And, how will we age this year? Youthfully, I hope.

The list is already long, but I can't seem to make fun/funny questions, perhaps because this year won't be funny at all. I'd like to give my condolence to our colleague **Vergel Santos** whose father died this week. Wednesday morning, I got a text message from Vergel, "My dad passed away peacefully, painlessly, preempting any emphysema attack. Rather merciful really." (Even in text messaging, Vergel nurtures his prose.) **Angel P. Santos Sr.** was 85.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

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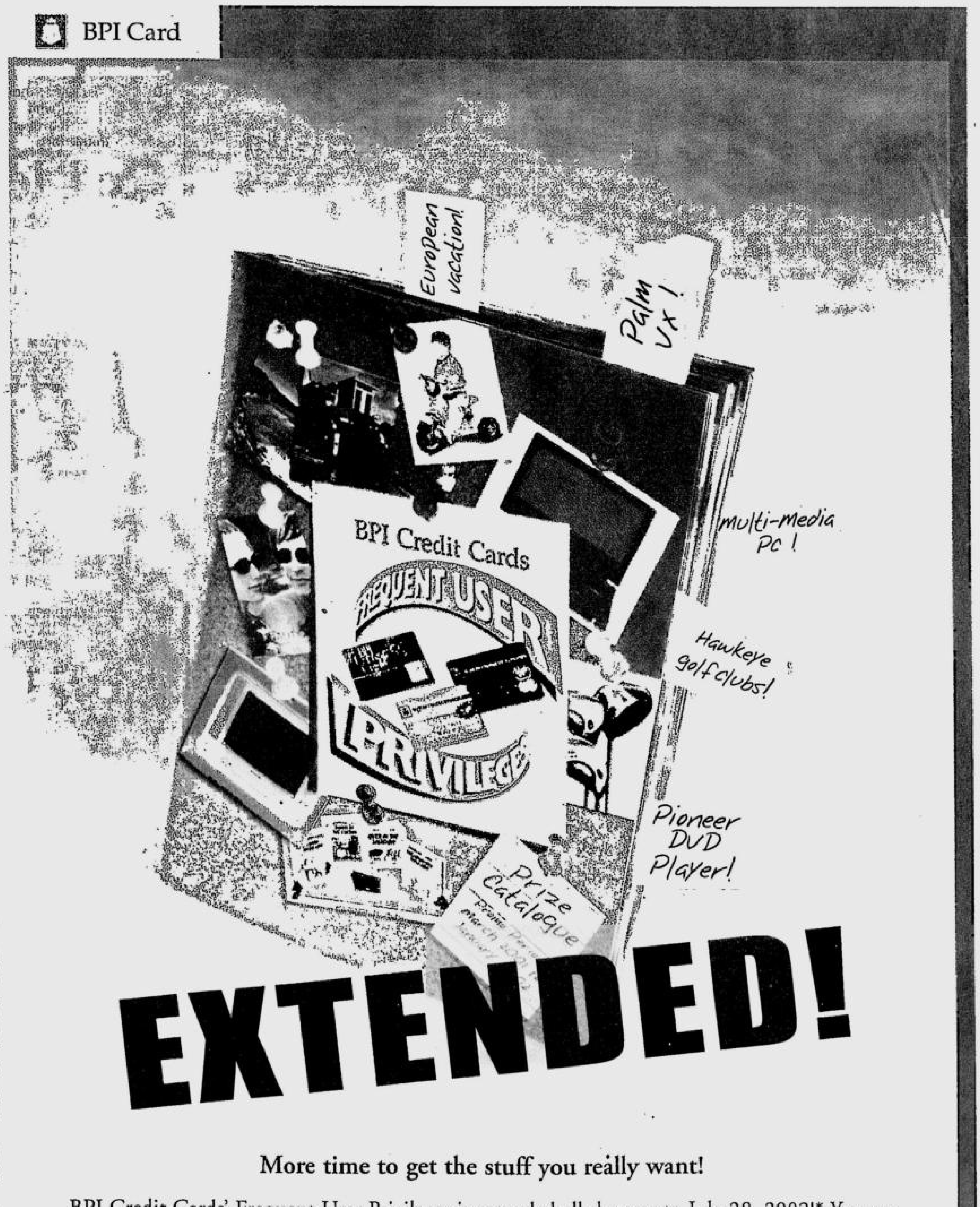
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Alice in verityland

Back from Canada where she survived winter depression, Alice Dixson is raring to jumpstart her movie career

BY LEAH SALTERIO
PHOTOS BY PATRICK UY

WHEN actress Alice Dixson, 34, settled down in Vancouver, Canada, last year, a number of people thought she had left show biz for good.

SPARKLING in a blouse by Poleci

PIN-THIN is out; curves are in. Alice wears a '20s inspired dress with a pearl chain by Poleci.

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY ROCKY GIMENEZ OF COCOY SALON, GREENHILLS

SHOES: JILL STUART AND ANNE KLEIN

CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES: MIX, GREENBELT MALL

Alice initially struggled to cope with married life in another country, away from the limelight and the intrigues. She didn't think twice about giving up her thriving show-biz career when she tied the knot with Ronnie Miranda.

"It is not a hard decision to make if you really want a quiet and peaceful family life," she says.

Playing housewife

In Vancouver, Alice played housewife to Miranda, a webmaster who has designed websites for celebrities such as Sharon Cuneta, Pops Fernandez and Zsa Zsa Padilla. Alice says marriage has taught her valuable lessons in life.

"I'm more responsible now because I'm not just taking care of myself; there's my husband, too," she says. "I learned to be more independent. I drive alone and cook for both of us."

Alice also learned to be more practical. "I used to buy clothes and accessorize a lot. But in Canada, they don't care what shoes, bags or cell phone model you have," she says. "I guess you tend to be more practical with age."

However, the first trimester of her stay in Vancouver turned out to be very depressing. During the first two months, Alice suffered from winter depression syndrome.

"It was always raining and snowing and there was no sun, so I didn't get any Vitamin D, which is supposed to be an anti-depressant," she says. "I went to the library and started to read up on what I was going through and that was where I learned it was the winter depression syndrome. But when spring came, I felt better. I had a brighter disposition and I was happy.

"I realized I had to do something every time in order to not get bored. You have to try new skills to be multifaceted. A Filipina bank teller offered to train me even if I don't have any experience. When I go back, I don't mind learning the job."

Regal deal

Last November, Alice returned to Manila to fulfill a few show-biz commitments. Her husband does not hinder her from doing what she wants. Ronnie, after all, is busy with his Vancouver-based company Storm Visualization (check out www.stormviz.com).

"Ronnie is not the type to stop me from what I want to do," she says. "When I told him I wanted to go back to show biz, he was never against it. My husband is not the type who dictates. I met him when I was already an actress so he understands what I do. He is very supportive of me."

Through her talent manager, Arnold Vegrafria, Alice has agreed to make films again. She is set to sign a two-picture contract with Viva Films.

Regal Films matriarch Lily Monteverde is also negotiating for a project with her.

When it comes to making movies, Alice says she will abide by the same limitations she had set even when she was still single.

"Even before, I always had my limitations which I discussed with my directors and they have never changed," she allows. "I always use my judgment when it comes to scenes."

Shower scene

Looking back at her acting career, Alice recalls it was her shower scene with Christopher de Leon in "My Other Woman" that created a lot of stir.

"I had reservations doing that, but my director, Maryo J. de los Reyes, insisted that it was needed in the story," she says. "I felt really awkward doing that and it was half-hearted. Later, I realized I could have done away with it. It was not really necessary. So with my future offers, I will be more careful with the requirement of the roles."

Her most controversial project, however, was "The Jessica Alfaro Story," which was subjected to a temporary restraining order from the court for theatrical exhibition.

"That put a lot of stress on me," Alice says. "Even when we were doing the film, we already knew there would be a court case filed against the movie. It was shown after a long time."

In Canada, Alice's love for acting increased. She took acting lessons with Kirstin Clarkson, and read and auditioned for a few roles.

Alice auditioned for an Asian guest role as an angel of death on the Canadian TV show "Mysterious Ways."

"I never really stopped acting," Alice says. "I only changed locations. In Canada, it's very different. Being a looker will not easily land you a role. Although your credentials will help, you have to prove yourself and audition for the part.

"It's also frustrating to get rejected for roles you like. I'd usually get a callback, but more often than not, I would not get the role because most of the theater, TV and film projects require you to be part of the Union of British Columbian Performers, even if you're just playing a minor role. I guess I have to build a new body of work so I can be part of the union.

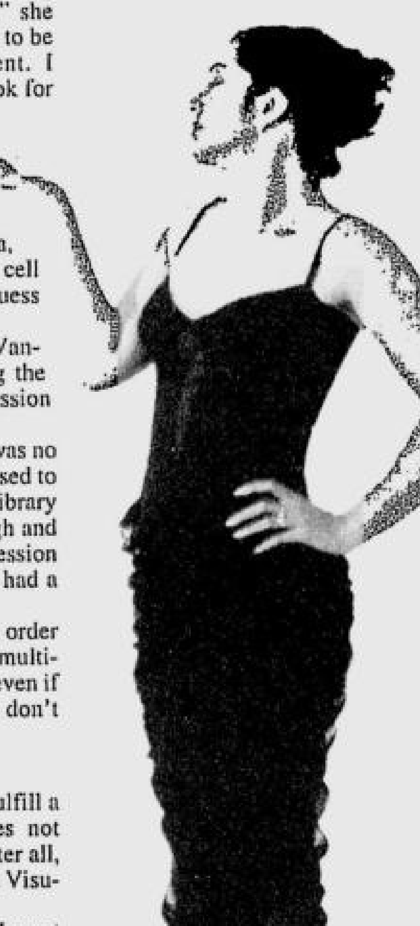
Striking a balance

During the Christmas holidays, her husband joined Alice in Manila. They spent New Year in Singapore, where they visited her brother-in-law, Disney Channel Asia executive Raymund Miranda.

Even if Alice has to shuttle between Vancouver and Manila, she is ready to make that sacrifice to will balance her married life and show-biz career. She enjoys her anonymity in Canada, but every once in a while she gets a taste of the limelight when she returns to Manila.

"Ronnie and I have agreed on that kind of set-up. I'll spend a few months here to do some film and TV projects, then go back to Canada," Alice says.

"I guess if you really want to make something work, it will. In this case, I'm willing to give my career another try and make a go of my marriage. I hope that's not so difficult to do."



ALICE shed off inches and pounds to fit into this Vivienne Tam corset dress with ruching.

DAZZLER

Last year's Chanel Aqualumieres was a big hit. The creamy palette of iridescent warm colors suited all skin tones. This time, Chanel's new collection features eight sparkling shades with two textures—one cream and the other gloss. Fuchsia, peach, crimson and russet combine with white silver, damson, pink gold and orange gold in concentrated gloss textures. Available at Rustan's.

Avoiding a rash in 2002

BY JOSE JAVIER REYES
Contributor

SOME time ago I noticed a small red dot on my stomach. About 10 days later, that small red dot had multiplied into several rather curious itchy spots all over my torso, threatening to crawl up my neck and down to my appendages.

At midlife, it is ridiculous to think I got the measles. By Dec. 20, I was in a panic. Rushing to a dermatologist recommended to me, I unwrapped myself for her critical examination. Lo and behold, the itchy spots turned out to be *Pityriasis roscea.* Huh! It is a nonfungal/nonbacterial ailment of unknown source, which is most likely undue stress.

This *Pityriasis* thing is not contagious. But as I rub on my violated skin all these lotions and gulp down anti-allergy pills, something dawned on me. I am having this itchy problem because of stress. At first, it sounded like a joke when the dear *doctora* told me that, aside from avoiding seafood, mangoes (oh, no!), chocolates (whaaaaaaat?!) and anything that can provoke itching (hmmmm... now that sounds either vague or fatal), I should minimize stress. Well, the *doctora* laughed, too.

I mean, think Year 2K1. Unless you are mentally challenged or have found comfort in the use of hallucinatory drugs, how can you not be *stressed* out? Unless you go into Manic Yoga or completely block out everything happening around you, advice like "try not to be stressed" holds as much sense as "the Philippines is the only country in the region to grow by over 2 percent and we should be ecstatic." Yeah, right!

Resolutions

Undoubtedly, Year 2K1 was *annus horribilis* and we couldn't wait to get it over and done with. And while we waited for the last few days of the Not-Too-Great Year to pass, I decided to do something so inanely predictable. I drew up this list of New Year's resolutions I intend to follow to avoid future attacks of exotic skin diseases due to stress:

● I shall never allow anyone to have the pleasure of seeing me miserable. In moments of great triumph, everyone surrounds you like buzzing flies hoping that your success will rub off on him. But in moments of greater defeat, you rush to your CD to play "You'll Never Walk Alone" full blast to assure yourself that you have not been jettisoned to another planet where no other life form exists except your faithful pet dog. So, whether I am doing a light fandango or moving my body to the tune of a dirge, I am never going to let anyone see how badly the moment feels. Why give them that ultimate pleasure?

I mean, if you are down and out and you are scavenging for any form of human assurance—especially pity—you deserve to be down and out. My newfound motto is, "I am gonna smile through the sandstorm, laugh through the tornado... and dance through the typhoon." Then perhaps, when the proverbial sunshine returns, I can go back to my CD player and look for that "Best of Barry Manilow" album and sing (at the top of my voice), "I made it through the rain." How refreshingly *baduy* but socially effective, I tell you.

● I will not let anyone intimidate me. Respect of authority is fine. But respect is earned, not casually given like flyers in a mall for a condo development no one wants to buy. You don't necessarily have to respect anyone who hasn't proven his worth, right? Now, let's get into this whole *seniority schtick.* Sure, it is part of our culture to give the highest respect to our elders, including ancestors who are now possibly skateboarding with Saint Peter or playing Harry Potter's broomstick aerial sport with Saint Michael, but respect is different from intimidation.

A person who is intimidated fears disenfranchisement, unemployment, castigation or social isolation. You do not necessarily respect someone you fear. You might actually hate him/her/it and wish for the law of karma to take effect in two milliseconds or just mutter such classic Pinoy movie kitsch lines as, "*Darating ang araw...,*" "*Bahala na si* Lord *sa kanya*" or "*Bukas luluhod ang mga tala...*"

One thing I've learned is that you only grant powers unnecessarily to people by being afraid of them. Strip this authoritarian creature of imagined qualities and s/he will be not much different from you.

● I will stop trying to master the art of worrying. So they say that we can get so lucky if the economy picks up by the second semester or the last quarter of 2K2. People are constantly bemoaning the forecast that more businesses will close and hundreds and thousands will be vying for jobs that are not there. But can I really do anything about that by worrying?

It is not like everyone's going to storm Malacañang and blame our Inno Sotto-suited little president for all the economic woes of the country. While that's going to make finger-pointing easy and political strategizing convincing, that does not necessarily say much. Maybe everyone should watch the "World News" to realize that what we are going through is no different from what is happening in other parts of the world. Even in the United States, my friends are losing their jobs, except they have unemployment checks and steaks are so much cheaper there than they are here.

But what will worrying bring me? Instead of sulking, *ngek-ngek-ngeking,* blaming people and calling for Edsa 4 ("*Naku, tama na 'yan, ha?* OA *na...na*-reach *na natin ang* quota *natin sa* public miracles *na ganyan, ha?*"), I prefer to move my butt and do something constructive. Now what is constructive? Two important buzzwords: simplify and fallback. They do not need much ingenuity or thought, just common sense and practicality. They also diminish the need to take a tranquilizer every night.

Color of money

● I will stop believing that money is the measure of everything. Money is really the root cause of all maladies—social, political, spiritual and even biological. As the one-hit wonder Meja sang, "It's all about the money..." Now let me borrow Boy Abunda's "magic mirror" (that I think he got from eBay during an auction by Snow White's Stepmother), and ask myself: "Am I really a superior creature of this universe because I am wearing a P65,000 Italian designer suit even if it was purchased from a diffusion line?" Or, "Am I a more worthy child of God because I have the latest cell phone model that will be passé or too common in around six months?"

Perhaps a better question is, "What am I giving up, what am I turning into with all these material things?" Maybe I should leave the magic mirror alone because the answers I will get may not make me very happy. This leads me to...

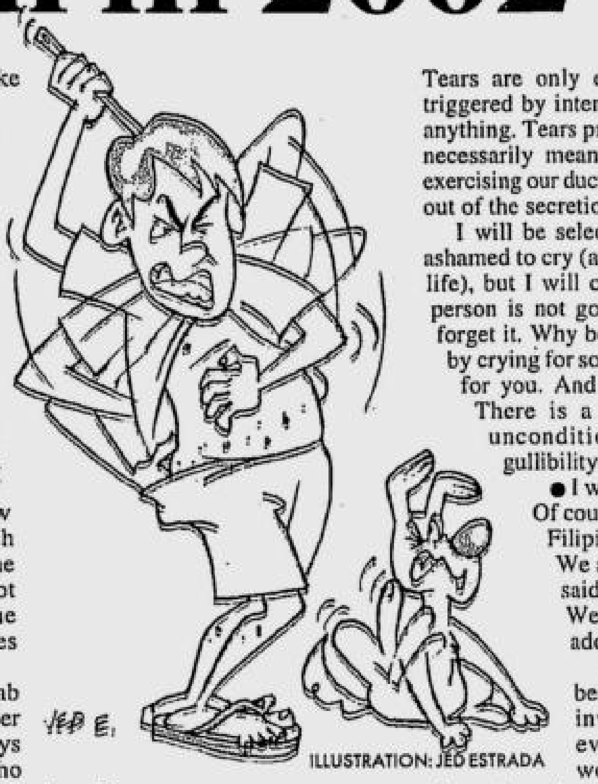


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

● I will stop basing my happiness on the approval of others. I have gone through that process on an extended run—the craving for attention, the need to be recognized, the urge to "matter." There is nothing wrong with ambition, but when its pursuit becomes obsessive, when the quest becomes questioning, you really begin to wonder. When you see people you once respected literally selling out, becoming turncoats, invoking everything from nationalism to guaranteed seats in blissful eternity just to win public approval and sympathy, you ask, "*Gan'on ba 'yon?*"

● I shall use better judgment to know what is true and sincere and to distinguish the charlatans from the real leaders. The playing field has become smaller. It's not just a dog-eat-dog world anymore. The bitches are even eating their own puppies just to get ahead.

I do not want to think that the crab mentality is exclusive to our race. Wherever you go, whoever you are, there will always be competition. There will be people who will be happy for your success and those who will celebrate your failure.

But so what? There was a time when I said to myself, "I will not get mad, I will get even..." or "Life is a bitch... and so am I!" But after years of getting even and bitching, it dawned on me that I am actually acknowledging the importance of my tormentors.

So now I will do what I have to do and what I want to do. These are things I feel I must and want to do not because I want somebody else to be supremely happy. To those who think that what I am doing is great, *merci beau coup.* As for those who think I stink, I say the problem is with their noses.

Another big moral lesson I learned during the *annus horribilis:* No one is indispensable. I have faced that fact about me. Maybe if I took it less seriously and turned it into a reason to celebrate my mortality, then this stupid skin disease wouldn't have appeared.

Cry baby

● I will only cry for people who will cry with me or for me. That's quite self-explanatory. In media, tears seem to be such a big deal. But they are not. Tears are only expressions of a given moment, triggered by intense emotions. They do not change anything. Tears prove we are human, but they do not necessarily mean we are better human beings by exercising our ducts to the max and making a spectacle out of the secretion of a body fluid.

> Exotic skin diseases thrive on stress. So this year I shall be ready for the surprises that life has to offer

I will be selective in my crying. I shall not be ashamed to cry (as I have never been throughout my life), but I will choose who I cry for or with. If a person is not going to do the same for you, then forget it. Why bother? You don't ennoble yourself by crying for someone who will not invest as much for you. And don't give me that selfless crap. There is a substantial difference between unconditional empathy and textbook gullibility.

● I will try not to take things personally. Of course, that is easier said than done. As Filipinos, we do take things personally. We are sensitive to criticism, to what is said in front of us or behind our backs. We even overread what is unspoken, addicted to nonstop *pakiramdaman.*

● I will try very, very hard not to be emotional about not-so-nice things involving people at work, home and even the shopping mall. Work is work, home is home and a mall is a place where there are a lot of people enjoying central air-conditioning. If there are people who do not agree with me, I will smile, shrug and say, "Oh, okay!" If there are people against me or what I represent, I will smile and shrug and say, "Oh, okay!" I will simply go through life addressing the points they make, but not giving them more value than they are really worth.

After all, it is important to listen to what other people say—for or against you. But what they say, think or do for or against you does not necessarily define who you really are. So I'm going to abide by my newfound mantra, "Oh, okay..." and go on analyzing, synthesizing and pursuing what I think is really good, honest and sincere for me. And for those who will persist in the pursuit of their own personal, particular or hidden agenda, I have only one thing to say to them: "Drop dead, turn to compost and fertilize a field of weeds... for all I care!"

And last . . . but not least . . .

● I will keep in mind that everything is merely transitional. Nothing is permanent. Times, people, places and feelings endlessly change. Alliances are like shapes in a kaleidoscope, endlessly forming new patterns and displaying amazing qualities. Life is full of surprises and no matter how hard you try to master the art of prediction, people will always surprise you.

Ready

So I shall be ready for all the surprises that life has to offer. This coming year, I intend to surprise others, too, not just for the pleasure of shocking but because that is what growing really means. Nothing can be more pathetic than someone who has turned predictable while feigning to be respectable. This not only reveals severe parochialism but a certified lack of substance.

This is all too predominant today. You hear highfalutin' statements that are nothing more than recycled slogans and philosophies from so many decades ago. In a world mangled by the confused and the confusing, there are so many messiahs and prophets who emerge from the woodworks carrying their own portable pedestals. But what is important is to see beyond the public persona and discover to the emptiness of their cacophony.

Since everything changes all too quickly, I refuse to be left behind. I refuse to turn into a pickle, marinated by the vinegar of preserving status quo. Yes, tradition is important but changes have to happen. You can't move on if you're so stuck up.

And, honey, at the rate the world is changing, you don't want to wake up one day to find out that you have been instrumental in fortifying a reality that has become obsolete. That is a disaster.

Am I optimistic about 2K2? I prefer to be realistic. I tried giving myself a Tarot Card reading and realized that I am only going to find the answers if I ask the right questions. Considering the uncertainty ahead, there are just too many questions. This year can only be as good as I want it to be and that has nothing to do with money, fame, social acceptance or even media exposure.

It has everything to do with accepting that if there is a problem, then there must be a solution. If with my own powers I cannot find solutions, then this ceases to be a problem. It is a situation. And I am not going to be stressed out again and invite another attack of unexplainable rashes all over my body.

If you ask me what I plan to do this year, I will smile and say, "Oh, okay...We shall see what we shall see. But you ain't seen nothing yet!"

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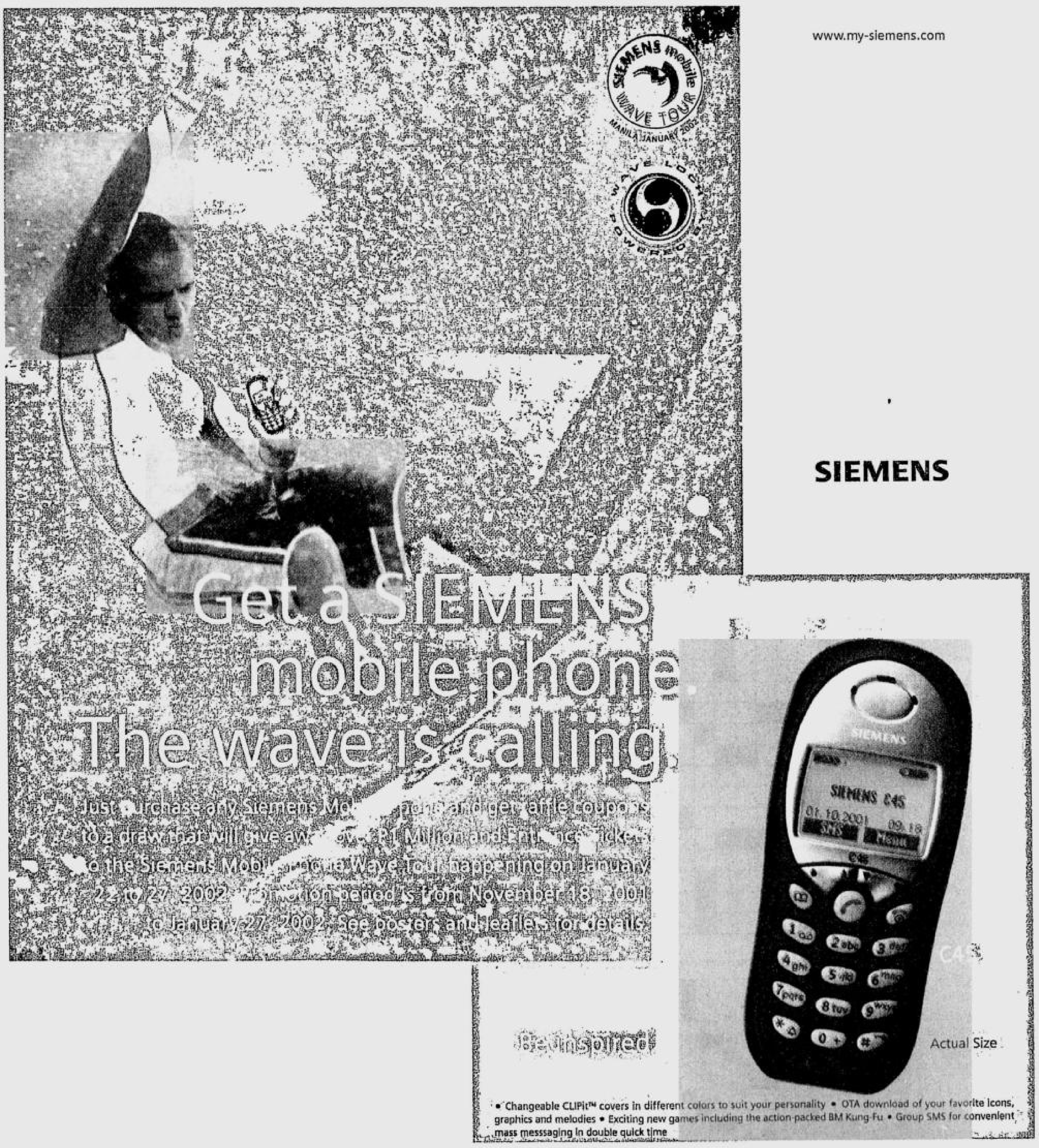
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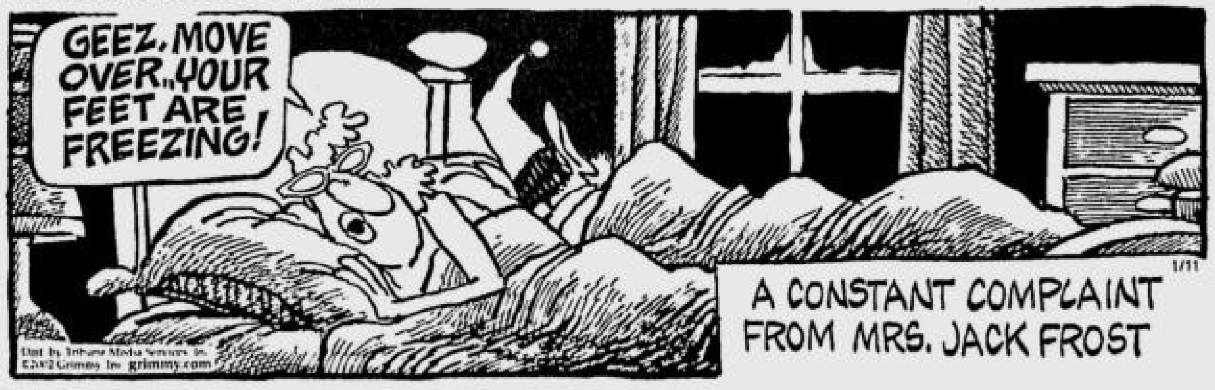
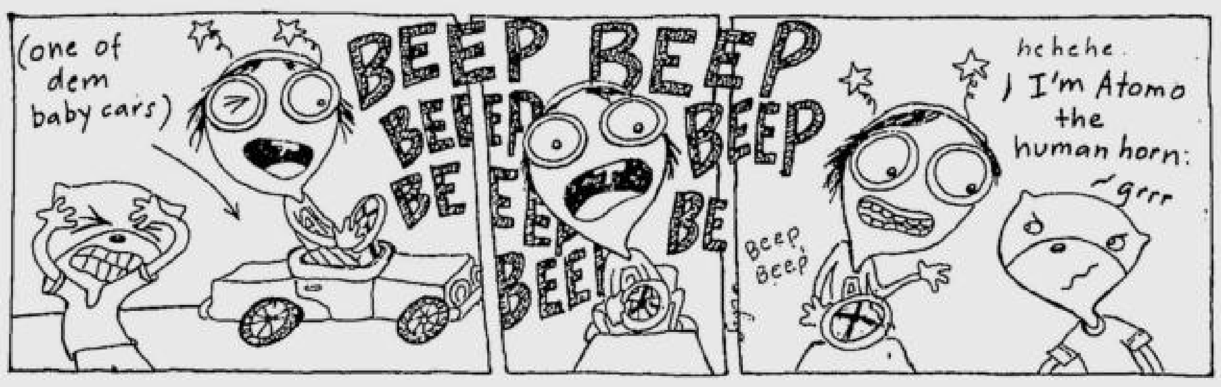
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GEEZ. MOVE OVER.. YOUR FEET ARE FREEZING!
A CONSTANT COMPLAINT FROM MRS. JACK FROST
1/11
Dist. by Tribune Media Services Inc. ©2002 Grimmy Inc. grimmy.com

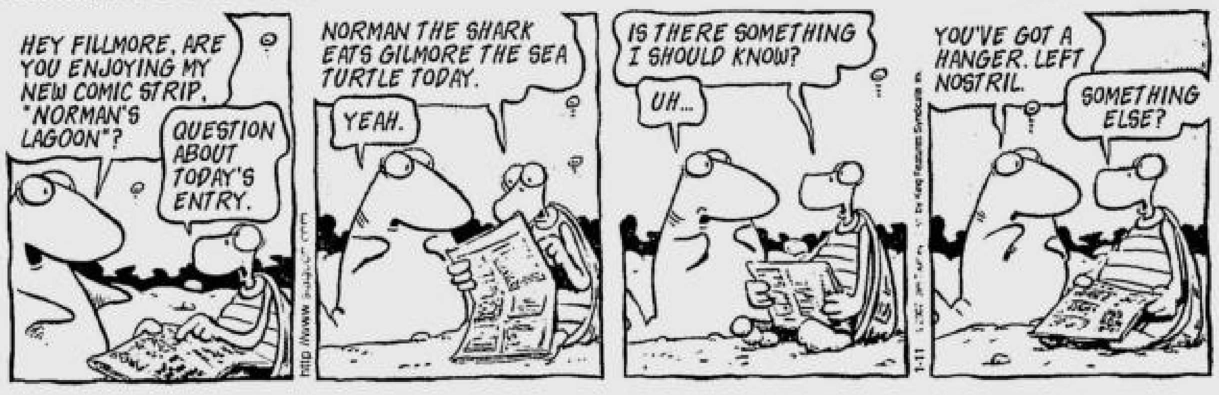
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


(one of dem baby cars)
BEEP BEEP BEEP BE
BEEP BEEP BE BEEP
Beep, Beep
heheche. I'm Atomo the human horn:
~grrr

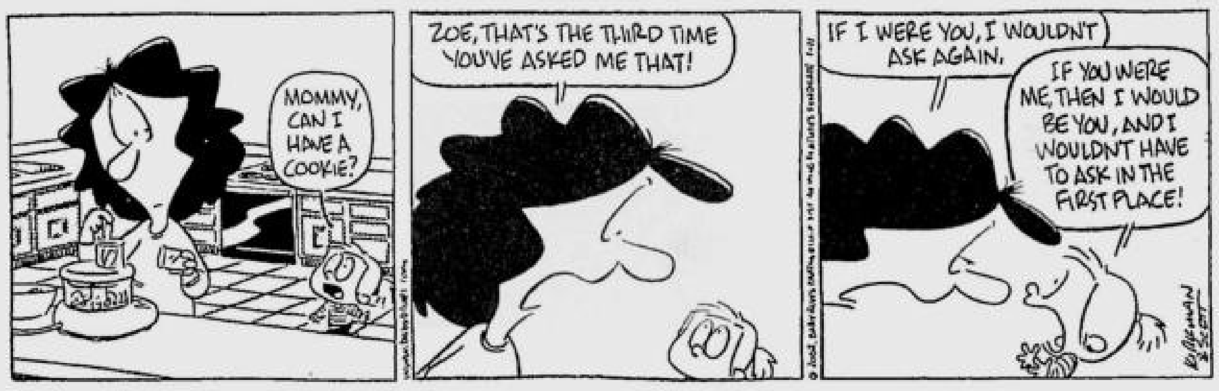
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY FILLMORE, ARE YOU ENJOYING MY NEW COMIC STRIP, "NORMAN'S LAGOON"?
QUESTION ABOUT TODAY'S ENTRY.
NORMAN THE SHARK EATS GILMORE THE SEA TURTLE TODAY.
YEAH.
IS THERE SOMETHING I SHOULD KNOW?
UH...
YOU'VE GOT A HANGER. LEFT NOSTRIL.
SOMETHING ELSE?
1-11

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOMMY, CAN I HAVE A COOKIE?
ZOE, THAT'S THE THIRD TIME YOU'VE ASKED ME THAT!
IF I WERE YOU, I WOULDN'T ASK AGAIN.
IF YOU WERE ME, THEN I WOULD BE YOU, AND I WOULDN'T HAVE TO ASK IN THE FIRST PLACE!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amanda Peet, Mary J. Blige, Kim Coles, Naomi Judd, Jason Connery, Rod Taylor

Happy Birthday: Your popularity will soar this year. If you build a strong position in your circle of friends, colleagues and peers, you will be able to get the help needed to accomplish your objectives. Your numbers are 4, 15, 17, 26, 32, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Competitive games will get your heart pumping. You are in a winning cycle so don't hesitate to put yourself on the line.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may have to offer assistance to others. Do so willingly and you will not find it nearly as difficult.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take the initiative and do what's needed to improve your life. If you have a complaint with someone, speak up and resolve it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Avoid getting into a disagreement with a friend or family member. It is better just to listen to what he or she has to say.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be in the mood to party. Enjoy the company of friends but don't forget to take care of any responsibilities first. You may need to help someone who can't do things for him or herself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It is best to let everyone do his or her own thing at home. Problems getting along will lead to all sorts of unexpected events.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You've got what it takes to reach your goals today so don't let laziness stand in your way. Your ability to get your point across will aid you in getting ahead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You had better put in extra effort or you may find yourself falling behind. You should find out interesting information regarding a financial investment or legal matter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Ups and downs can be expected within your partnerships. Don't be shy if something appears to be wrong or uncertain. Be sure to take action and deal with these matters quickly and efficiently.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone you work with may not be looking out for your best interest. Keep your guard up and don't be too quick to let others know what your intentions are.

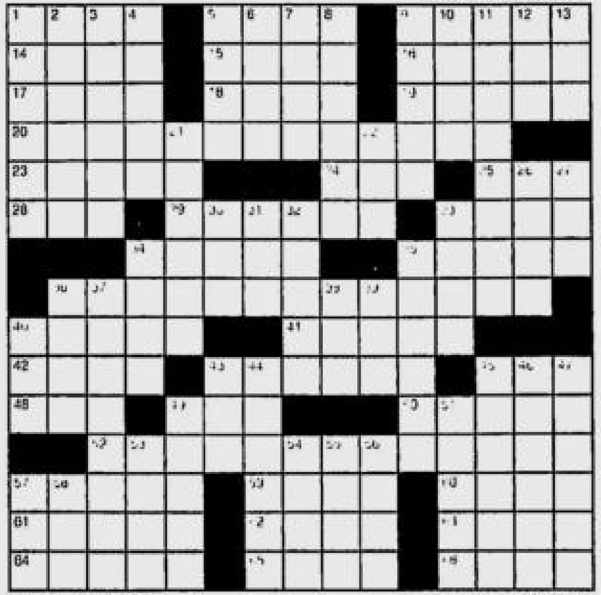
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may want to travel, however, it probably won't be in your best interest. Overspending will leave you cash poor at the end of the month. Someone you least expect will offer to help you out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's time to start thinking about all the things you can do around the house. You may get the help you need if you ask but don't overspend on luxury items.

Birthday Baby: You dance to your own beat. You are curious, active and very disciplined. You have great respect for your family but will always follow your own path. You are powerful, inventive and entertaining.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

11/27/01

ACROSS
1 First word of "Jabberwocky"
5 Alternative to ahem
9 Grocery section
14 Exceptional
15 Crow's-nest call
16 Wedding-party member
17 __ mater
18 Baby powder
19 Luster
20 Iron
23 Trunk
24 Manger morsel
25 Iceberg summit
28 Mata Hari, for one
29 Shower wall, often
33 Temper tantrum
34 Like most windows
35 Prairie schooner
36 Copper
40 Gaseous state
41 Nuts
42 Learned monkey-style
43 Drew breath in shock
45 Poetic peeper
48 Brown in the sun
49 Sushi delicacy
50 Remove the bolt
52 Nickel
57 Put into words
59 Vegetable oil spread
60 Kiddie
61 Misprint
62 Diversify
63 Woodwind
64 One's second decade
65 Tight or split followers
66 Chances

DOWN
1 Leaflets
2 Smack
3 Place to store weapons
4 Bleachers and benches
5 Butter squares
6 Counterfeit
7 On one's own
8 Business magnate
9 Anything whatever
10 Capri or Man
11 Insufficiency
12 Guitarist Paul
13 Hosp. intake areas
21 Blather
22 Earmark
26 Inventor Sikorsky
27 Pig enclosure
30 Business abbr.
31 Grant of Hollywood
32 Objects of devotion
33 Risque
34 Walk wearily
35 Pitcher's preparation
36 Hemingway nickname
37 Start shooting
38 Dandy
39 Antagonist
40 Dyeing tub
43 Golly!
44 Nook
45 Toed the line
46 __ up (accumulated)
47 Canine varieties
49 Murdered civil-rights leader
51 Explosive stuff
53 Religious figure
54 Dash
55 Geeky one
56 "__ in the Attic"
57 Old pro
58 Mine output

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	A	T	E	■	B	L	I	P	■	T	R	I	A	D
A	L	U	M	■	A	O	N	E	■	W	I	N	C	E
L	A	N	A	■	S	E	C	T	■	E	N	D	U	P
I	N	A	N	U	T	S	H	E	L	L	■	I	T	O
■	■	■	A	G	E	S	■	■	O	F	F	S	E	T
S	M	I	T	H	S	■	D	O	G	T	A	G	■	■
N	I	N	E	S	■	F	I	R	E	H	O	U	S	E
U	M	A	■	■	A	U	N	T	S	■	■	I	S	A
G	E	N	D	A	R	M	E	S	■	D	U	S	T	S
■	■	Y	O	D	L	E	R	■	C	U	T	E	S	Y
S	L	E	E	V	E	■	■	S	E	M	I	■	■	■
L	E	V	■	I	N	C	O	L	D	B	L	O	O	D
I	D	E	A	S	■	A	R	E	A	■	I	D	L	E
C	O	N	D	O	■	S	E	E	R	■	Z	E	A	L
E	N	T	E	R	■	H	O	P	S	■	E	R	N	E

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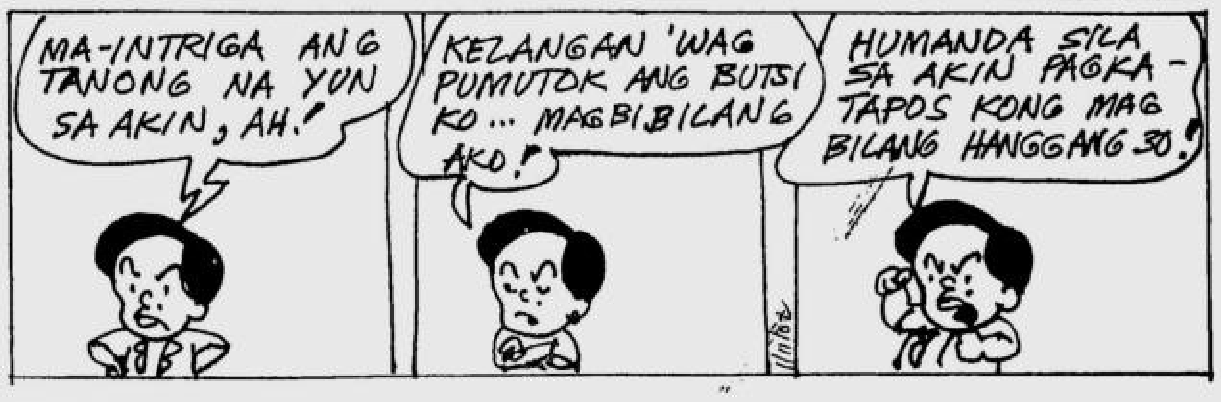
11/27/01

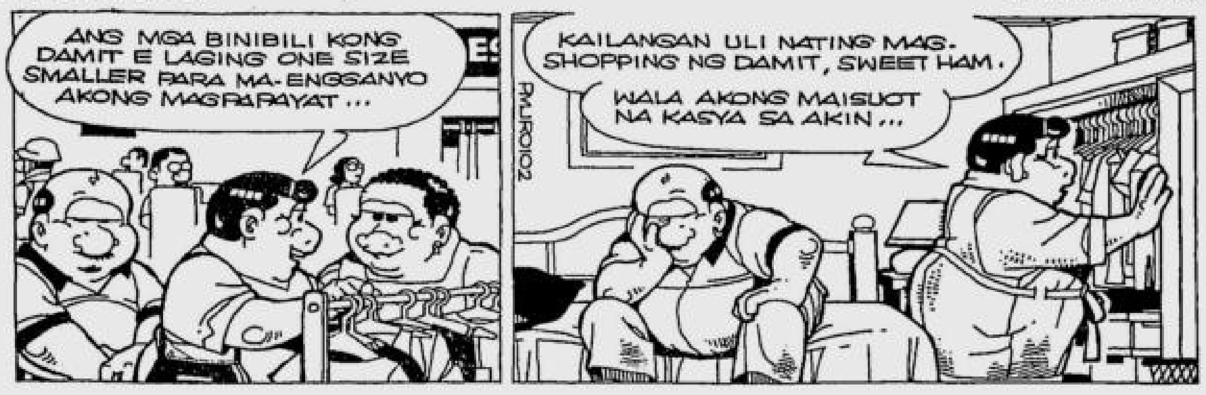
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MA-INTRIGA ANG TANONG NA YUN SA AKIN, AH!
KEZANGAN 'WAG PUMUTOK ANG BUTSI KO... MAGBIBILANG AKO!
HUMANDA SILA SA AKIN PAGKA-TAPOS KONG MAG BILANG HANGGANG 30!

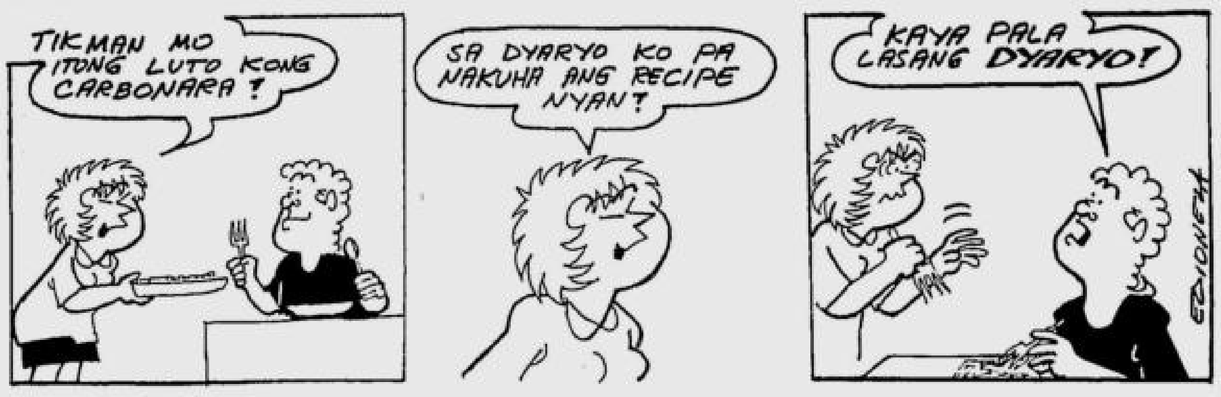
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG MGA BINIBILI KONG DAMIT E LAGING ONE SIZE SMALLER PARA MA-ENGGANYO AKONG MAGPAPAYAT...
PMJR0102
KAILANGAN ULI NATING MAG-SHOPPING NG DAMIT, SWEET HAM.
WALA AKONG MAISUOT NA KASYA SA AKIN...

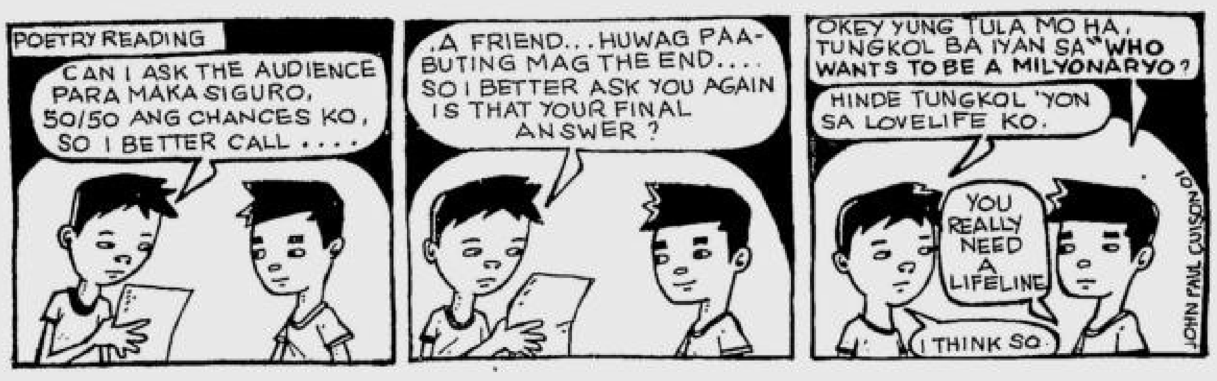
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


TIKMAN MO ITONG LUTO KONG CARBONARA!
SA DYARYO KO PA NAKUHA ANG RECIPE NYAN!
KAYA PALA LASANG DYARYO!
EDIONELA

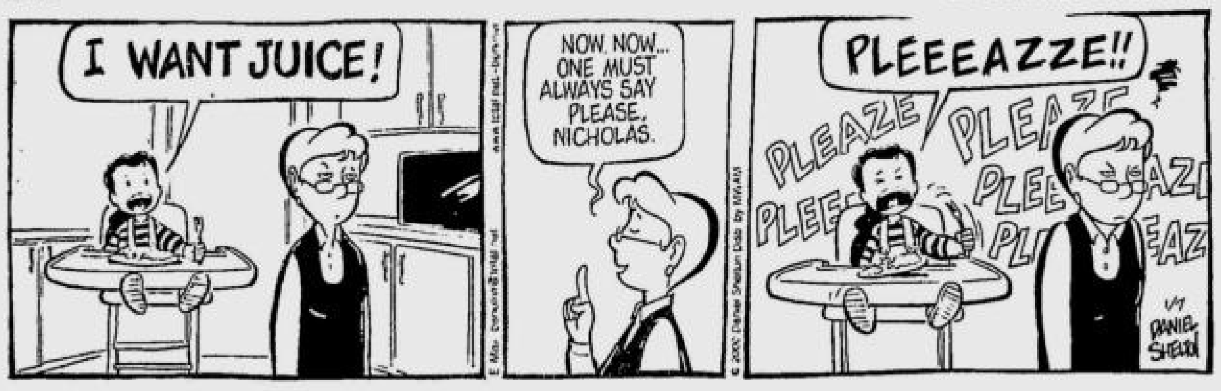
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


POETRY READING
CAN I ASK THE AUDIENCE PARA MAKASIGURO, 50/50 ANG CHANCES KO, SO I BETTER CALL....
.A FRIEND... HUWAG PAA-BUTING MAG THE END.... SO I BETTER ASK YOU AGAIN IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER?
OKEY YUNG TULA MO HA. TUNGKOL BA IYAN SA "WHO WANTS TO BE A MILYONARYO?
HINDE TUNGKOL 'YON SA LOVELIFE KO.
YOU REALLY NEED A LIFELINE
I THINK SO.
JOHN PAUL CUISON '01

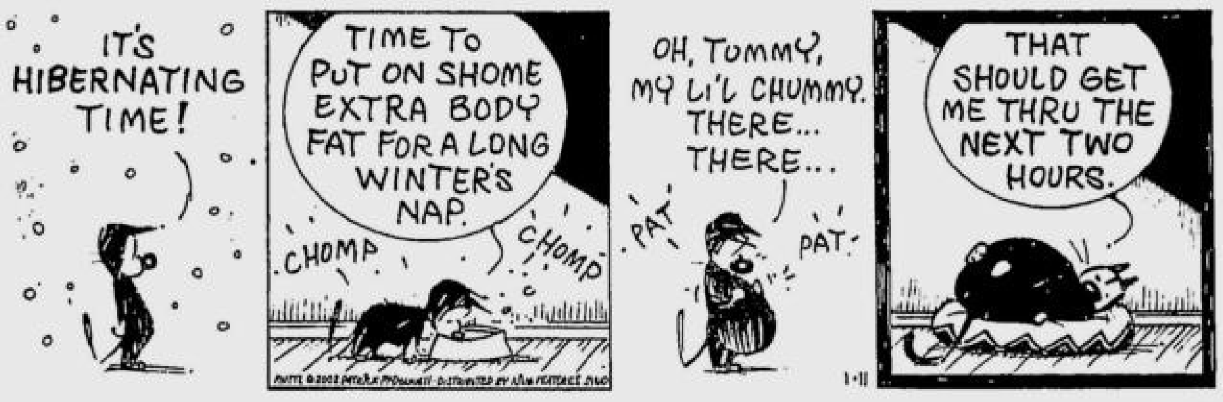
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I WANT JUICE!
NOW, NOW... ONE MUST ALWAYS SAY PLEASE, NICHOLAS.
PLEEEAZZE!!
PLEAZE PLEAZE PLEE PLEE PLEAZ PLI EAZ
DANIEL SHELTON

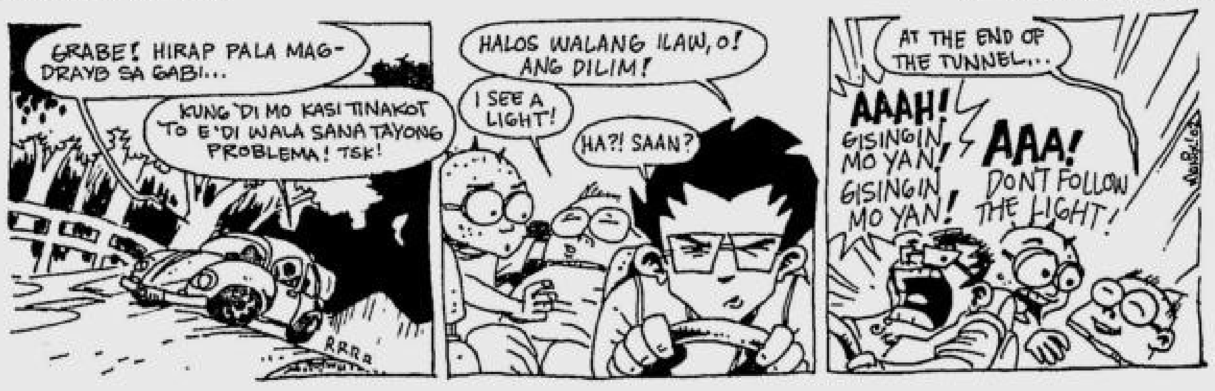
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IT'S HIBERNATING TIME!
TIME TO PUT ON SHOME EXTRA BODY FAT FOR A LONG WINTER'S NAP.
CHOMP
CHOMP
OH, TUMMY, MY LI'L CHUMMY. THERE... THERE...
PAT
PAT
THAT SHOULD GET ME THRU THE NEXT TWO HOURS.
1-11

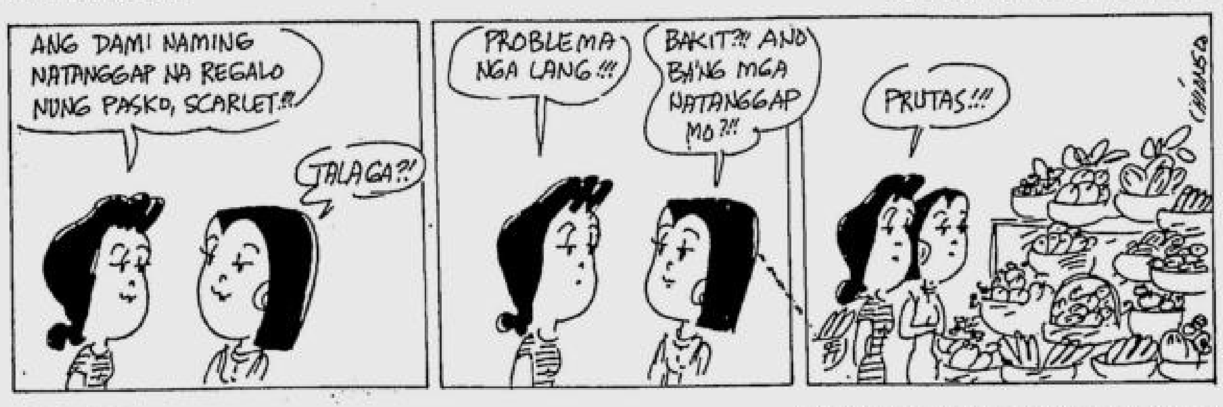
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE! HIRAP PALA MAG-DRAYB SA GABI...
KUNG 'DI MO KASI TINAKOT TO E'DI WALA SANA TAYONG PROBLEMA! TSK!
RRRa
HALOS WALANG ILAW, O! ANG DILIM!
I SEE A LIGHT!
HA?! SAAN?
AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL...
AAAH! GISINGIN MO YAN! GISINGIN MO YAN!
AAA! DON'T FOLLOW THE LIGHT!

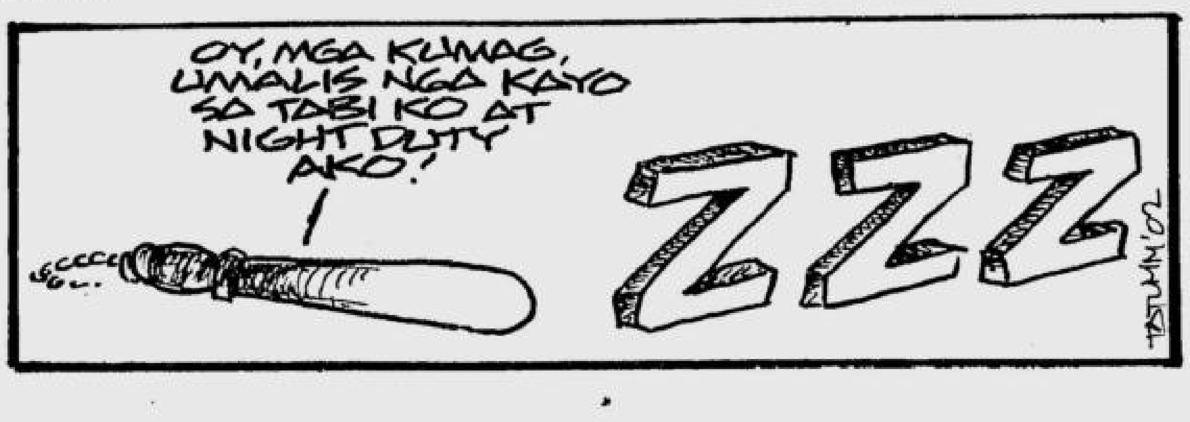
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG DAMI NAMING NATANGGAP NA REGALO NUNG PASKO, SCARLET!!!
TALAGA?!
PROBLEMA NGA LANG!!!
BAKIT?!! ANO BA'NG MGA NATANGGAP MO?!!
PRUTAS!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, MGA KUMAG, UMALIS NGA KAYO SA TABI KO AT NIGHT DUTY AKO!
ZZZ
TATUM '02

CHIN Chin Gutierrez wears The Whisper.

Layered look reinvented

THE "WHISPER" is the initial salvo of Ricky Reyes for the year 2002.

A reinvention of the ever-reliable layered look, The Whisper highlights the uneven yet polished edges of the hair that renders that soft, feminine look. In cities of Europe and other Asian countries like Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore, the Whisper style is hot.

"The edges may appear spikier or more textured than usual but they move and are very soft. That's why they require minimal blow-drying," says Reyes.

Another twist for The Whisper is that the layers are not visible because they are craftily hidden underneath, giving the hair volume and a put-together look.

Celebs Julia Roberts, Cameron Diaz, Madonna and Christina Aguilera are sporting the look.

In hair coloring, Reyes chucks in the monotone highlight for multitones.

"Multitoning is in for the hair. You pick up a color from the families of red and yellow such as purple, basic red, gold or brown and a combination will give the face a renewed, feminine look," says Reyes.

SMART SHORTS. Beautifully rounded bob with layers

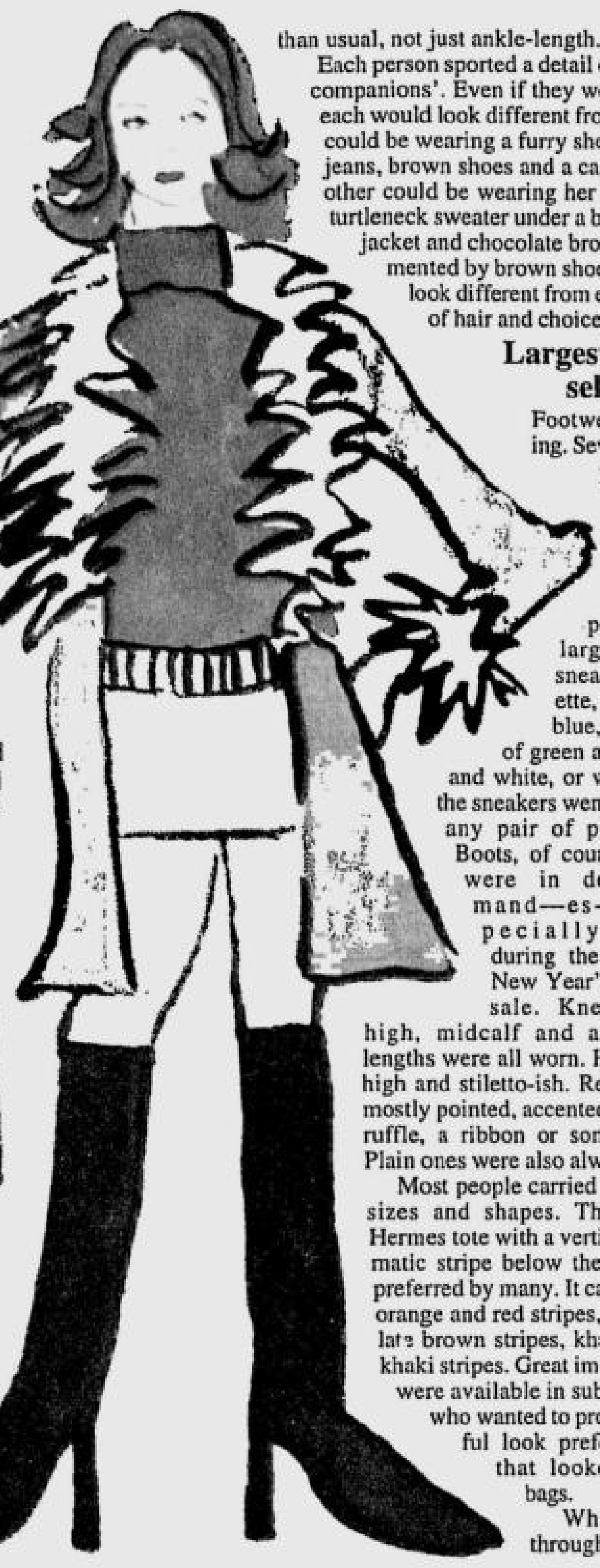
Tokyo has nonstop street fashion show in winter

TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS
BY CAMILLE CRUZ-REYES
Contributor

IN A COUNTRY not so far away, the weather dictates fashion. In winter, despite a lot of sunny breaks, the temperature's highest could be 5°, with the mercury dropping to much lower than that in the evenings.

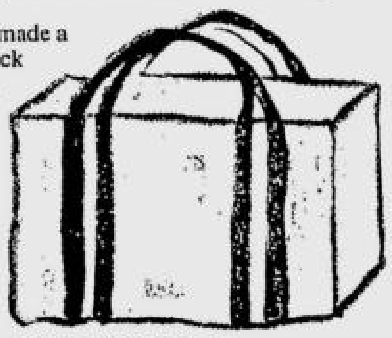
This winter Tokyo had a fashion show every day and everywhere and showcasing not just one, two or three styles but a whole lot more than was visible and with every imaginable detail.

Even during winter, the skin was not to be hidden no matter how cold it was. Some girls were dressed in short skirts with legs left bare (without even fishnet stockings that others favored), knee-high stiletto boots, and long jackets—with or without furry necklines. While I could not think of exposing some skin, most of Tokyo did not seem to mind showing theirs.



FUZZY cuffs and collar, micro mini and spiked heels

A favorite that made a remarkable comeback were leg warmers. These were worn in so many ways. Some wore them with mini skirts, reaching halfway to their pointed stiletto boots or shoes. The leg warmers were either knitted fabric or denim but they were only worn with pointed shoes.



GEOMETRIC bag

Jeans were also a popular choice, with girls pairing them with practically anything. Some wore large heavy scarves, thick sweaters and pointed flat but dressy shoes with them. Others used hipster belts in multilayered thin chains, or not-so-thick leather belts. Jeans fit snugly around the thighs and flared a bit at the lower legs. They were also worn longer than usual, not just ankle-length.

Each person sported a detail different from her companions'. Even if they were 20 in a group, each would look different from the others. One could be wearing a furry short jacket, T-shirt, jeans, brown shoes and a camel-soft cap. Another could be wearing her hair down, a rust turtleneck sweater under a brown, furry, short jacket and chocolate brown jeans complemented by brown shoes. The two would look different from each other because of hair and choice of jeans.

Largest sneaker selection

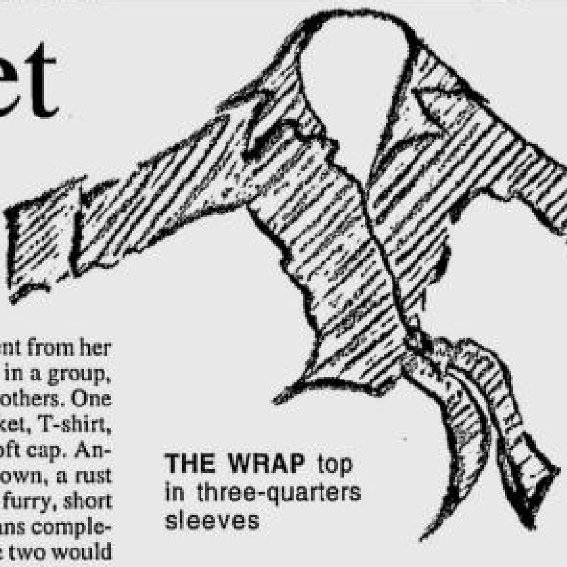
Footwear was interesting. Several sneaker-shod people were Puma fanatics.

The women's section of the Puma store, which was packed, had the largest selection of sneakers. In leatherette, and colored light blue, or combinations of green and brown, brown and white, or white and red, the sneakers went well with any pair of pants.

Boots, of course, were in demand—especially during the New Year's sale. Knee-high, midcalf and ankle lengths were all worn. Heels were mainly high and stiletto-ish. Regular shoes were mostly pointed, accented with a buckle, a ruffle, a ribbon or some other detail. Plain ones were also always available.

Most people carried tote bags in all sizes and shapes. The canvas-like Hermes tote with a vertical monochromatic stripe below the handles were preferred by many. It came in red with orange and red stripes, navy with chocolate brown stripes, khaki with navy and khaki stripes. Great imitations of the bags were available in subway shops. Those who wanted to project a more youthful look preferred patent ones that looked like athlete's bags.

While combing through the racks in Tokyo stores, one could see a few hints of what Spring/Summer 2002 would bring. There was an interesting ensemble combining a white Laura Ashley-like petticoat skirt with a dark navy denim jacket and black boots. This look was soft and sweet with a little edge to it. Cotton shirts looked more fun with ruffles along the button area. Others had horizontal stripes and wraparound ties. A wide variety of shirts were available and even the simplest did not look boring.

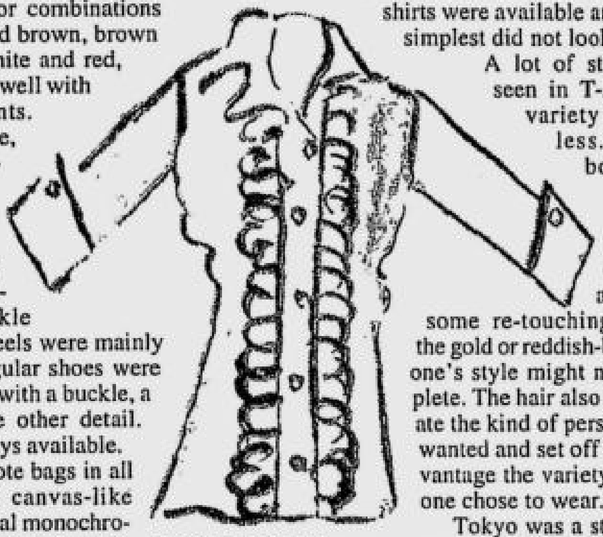


THE WRAP top in three-quarters sleeves

Even during winter, the skin was not to be hidden no matter how cold it was

A lot of stripes were seen in T-shirts. The variety was endless. Everybody had dyed their hair at least once or were about to do some re-touching. Without the gold or reddish-bronze hair, one's style might not be complete. The hair also helped create the kind of personality one wanted and set off to good advantage the variety of clothes one chose to wear.

Tokyo was a style sanctuary with a lot of fashion flair that would never go unnoticed.



ROMANTIC blouse

Recommended shopping areas: Shinjuku (lots of department stores—Takashimaya, Isetann, Mitsukoshi and more); Shibuya (a different feel with a lot of life) has Seibu, Parco and other places to stop by; and Harajuku (for some character, go to this place. Lots of street shopping down one long street. You can find trinkets and other crazy things).

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com

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  JF ▸ 2324
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  BOM ▸ 2324

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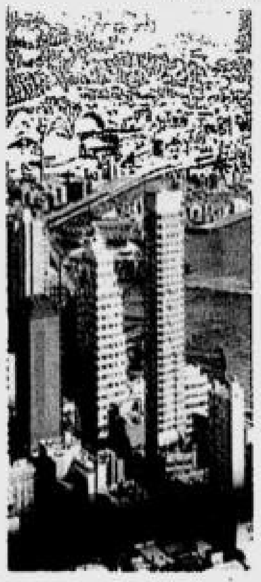
Blissful in Seattle

(Story on page D2)



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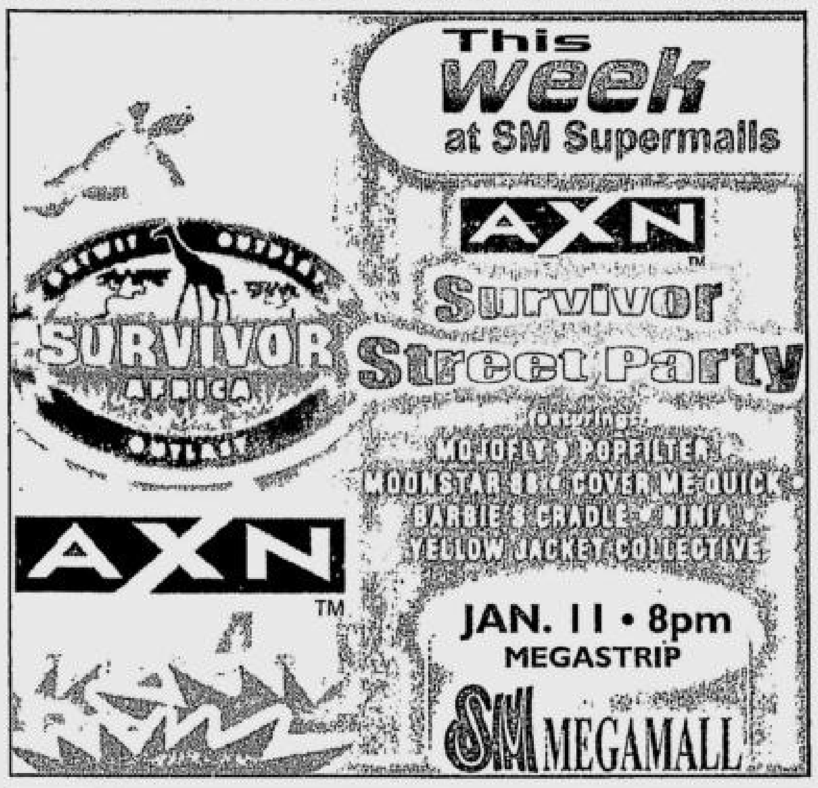
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January 12, Saturday 1:30-6:00 pm BASIC BAKING 1 from measuring to presentation! Chiffon Cake: Coffee Crunch Cake Sponge Cake: Strawberry and White Chocolate Trifle, Rich Butter Cake, Pie Crust: American Apple Pie P 1,200

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January 16, Wednesday, 9 am-1 pm SPECIAL BAKING Death by Chocolate, Mango Tango, Mango Layer Cake, Caramel Cheesecake with Nut Crust P 1,200

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January 18, Friday, 9 am-1 pm BAKING 2 with Frosting and Icings
Rich and Moist Devil's Food Cake with Mocha Butter Cream Frosting, Apple Walnut Cake with Creamy Caramel Frosting, Chocolate Decadent Cake with Chocolate Fudge Icing and Caramel, Maple Walnut Cake with Fluffy White Frosting P 1,200

January 19, Saturday 9-12 am THAI COOKING 2 Glass Noodle Salad, Bagoong Rice, Catfish Salad, Spicy Kangkong, Shrimp Pancake, Century Egg Salad, Mango with Sticky Rice P 1,200

January 19, Saturday 1:30-5:30 pm BAKING 3 Toblerone Cake, Cream Puff, Eclairs, Profiteroles Chocolate Mousse, Creamy Croissant and Apple Pudding. Empanadas con Camote y Pina P 1,000

January 21, Monday 9-12 am PIES AND CHEESECAKES Apple Pie with Streusel, Blueberry Cheesecake, No-Bake Cheesecake, Quiche Lorraine, Strawberry Cream Pie, Buko Pie P 1,000

January 24, Thursday, 9 am-1 pm BAKING 4 Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting. Lemon Meringue Pie, Rum Pound Cake, Tiramisu, Baklava P 1,000

January 25, Friday 9-12 am SPECIAL COOKING 1 Pasta with Gorgonzola Sauce, Paella Valenciana, Fish Florentine in Fillo Pastry, Bone Marrow Canapes, Crepes Samurai P 1,000

January 26, Saturday, 9-12 am THAI COOKING 3 Pandan Chicken, Thai Chicken Curry, Beef Curry, Khanom Chine, Papaya Salad, Green Mango Salad, Pineapple Rice, Roh Piah (Thai Springrolls) P 1,200

January 26, Saturday, 1-6 pm YEAST DOUGHS Pan de Sal, Ensaimada Espesyal (w/ Cheese and Ube filling), Cheese Rolls, Pear Walnut Bread P 1,200

January 28, Monday, 9-12 am BROWNIES GALORE Chocolate Cheesecake Brownies, Cappuccino Brownies, Kahlua Brownies, White Chocolate Pecan Brownies, Chocolate Fudge Brownies P 1,000

January 29, Tuesday, 9-12 am MY FAVOURITE CHICKEN RECIPES 2 Chicken Florentine, Barbecued Chicken Wings, Grilled Chicken and Shrimp on Skewers, Arroz con Pollo, Chicken Teriyaki, Chicken and Steak Fajitas P 1,000

January 30, Wednesday, 9-1 pm BAKING 5 Ube Cake, Original Pandan Cake, Mango Cake, Strawberry Shortcake P 1,000

January 31, Thursday, 9-12 am ASIAN COOKING Hainanese Chicken Rice, Vietnamese Springrolls, Gado Gado, Claypot Chicken Rice Peking Candied Apples P 1,000

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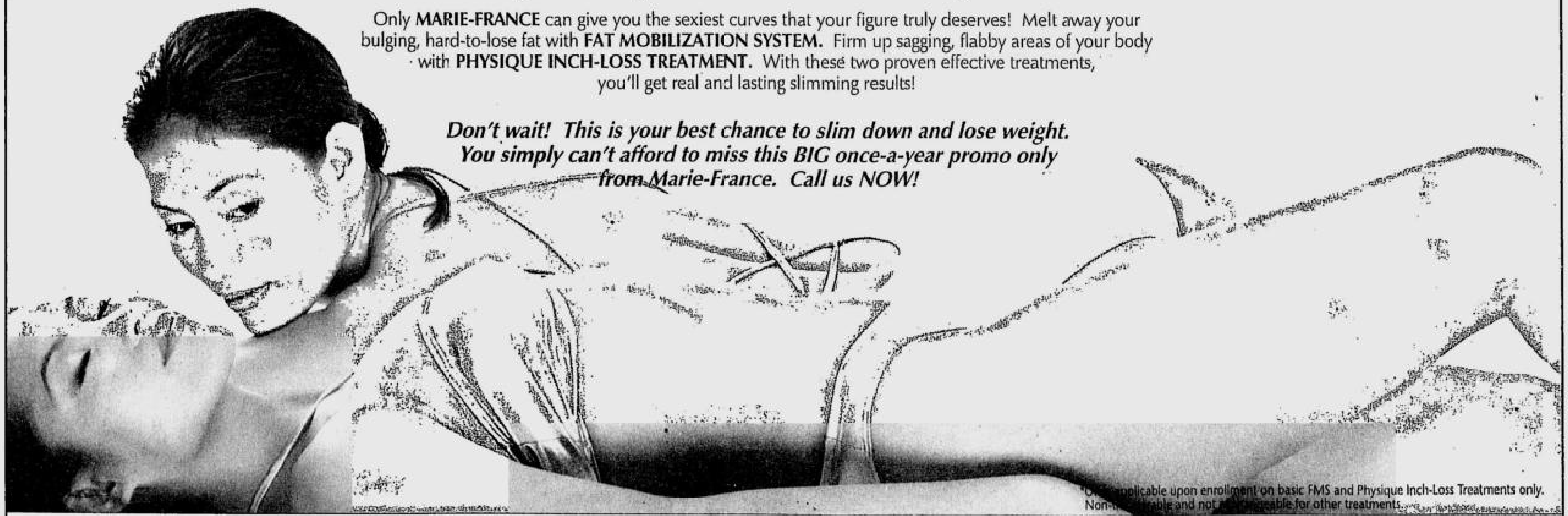

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892-7631/32	687-1218	372-6636	243-8230	850-4574	534-5877	920-8047	860-6921/22	233-7639
812-0472 • 812-0510	638-3028	410-3723 • 410-3724	242-3299 • 242-2399	842-4633 • 842-6887	717-0071 • 717-0072	920-7675	Dan's Marketing Bldg.,	233-7641
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Dela Rosa St.	Tower, ADB Ave.	Timog Ave.	Plaza del Conde St.	Alabang-Zapote Rd.	Plaza	Congressional Ave.	San Fernando	Cebu City

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NO EXERCISE MACHINES • NO WORKOUT CLASSES • NO PILLS OR INJECTIONS • NO HUNGER PAINS • NO MEDICATIONS • NO SURGERY

Who do you love among the MTV Asia Awards 2002 nominees?
Text in your votes now.
Check out the list of categories and nominees on the opposite page.

By voting through text, you could win one of 5 SMART Buddy Panasonic GD75 celfone kits!

How strongly do you feel about your favorite artists? Let them know by texting in your votes to the MTV Asia Awards 2002, to be held in Singapore on February 2, 2002. You can vote as many times as you like in any category. And each vote gives you a chance at winning a new SMART Buddy celfone! Your vote really counts! Voting period is until January 19, 2002. So, vote wisely for your favorite artists now!

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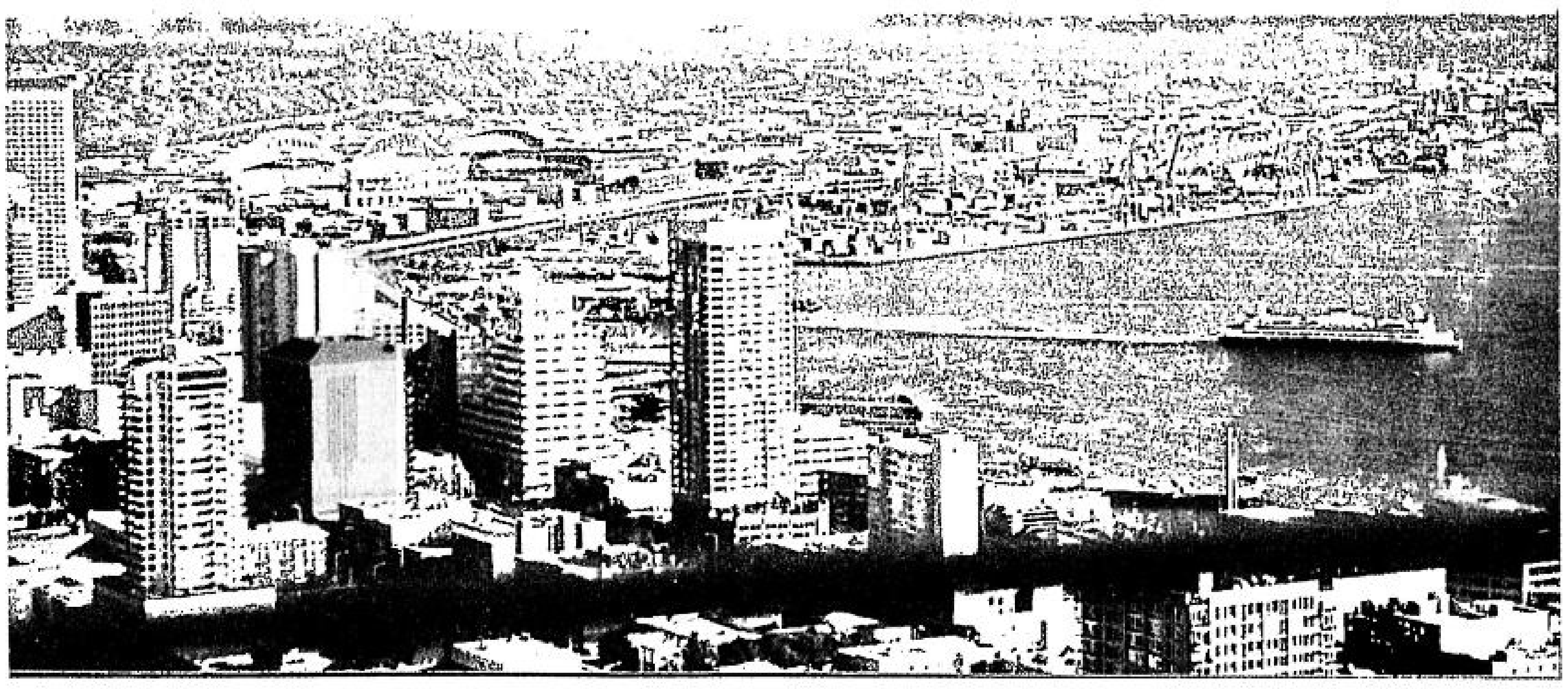
Blissful in Seattle



SAFETY, evergreen views, abundance of water and the dynamism represented by the presence of IT companies like Microsoft, helped a Filipino-American couple decide where to build a home.

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY CATHY SALDAÑA-NOLIDO
Contributor

IN SCENIC Seattle, a newly married couple has built and decorated a home, imbuing it with Asian charm and binding the bride's Philippine roots to one of America's dynamic and most beloved cities.

In their three-level home, Paul and Rina Nutter have maximized the strengths of the bride's own house, elevating it from a luxurious abode of a young and accomplished Filipina doctor into a zone of domestic bliss for a couple starting a family.

It helped that Rina, daughter of Manila-based doctors Tyrone and Ofelia Reyes, had started her collection of furniture and artworks many years before. Trips to home showrooms and department stores in various American cities enabled the young rehab doctor to collect rare items and interesting wood pieces.

Key items

Rina's parents got her some paintings and accents from the Philippines. Wishing to give an Asian identity to the place led to her purchase of an Indian cabinet now gracing the foyer.

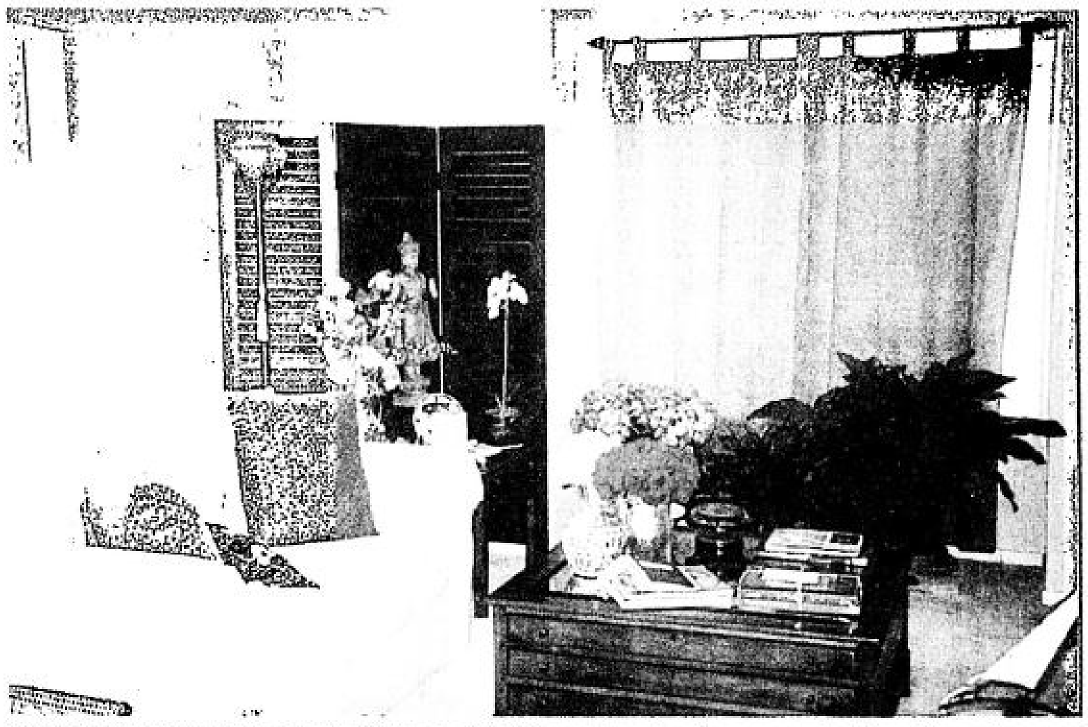
Paul has always lived in Seattle. He truly hails from Washington State. Although a highly esteemed rehab doctor practicing in a hospital outside Seattle, his hobby is carpentry and he has a knack for fixing things. He appreciates Asian designs as much as traditional styles of American interiors and architecture.

Merging with Philippine paintings and accents are silver, porcelain and celadon set amid potted plants and favored pieces from American stores like Pottery Barn, Crate & Barrel and Bombay.

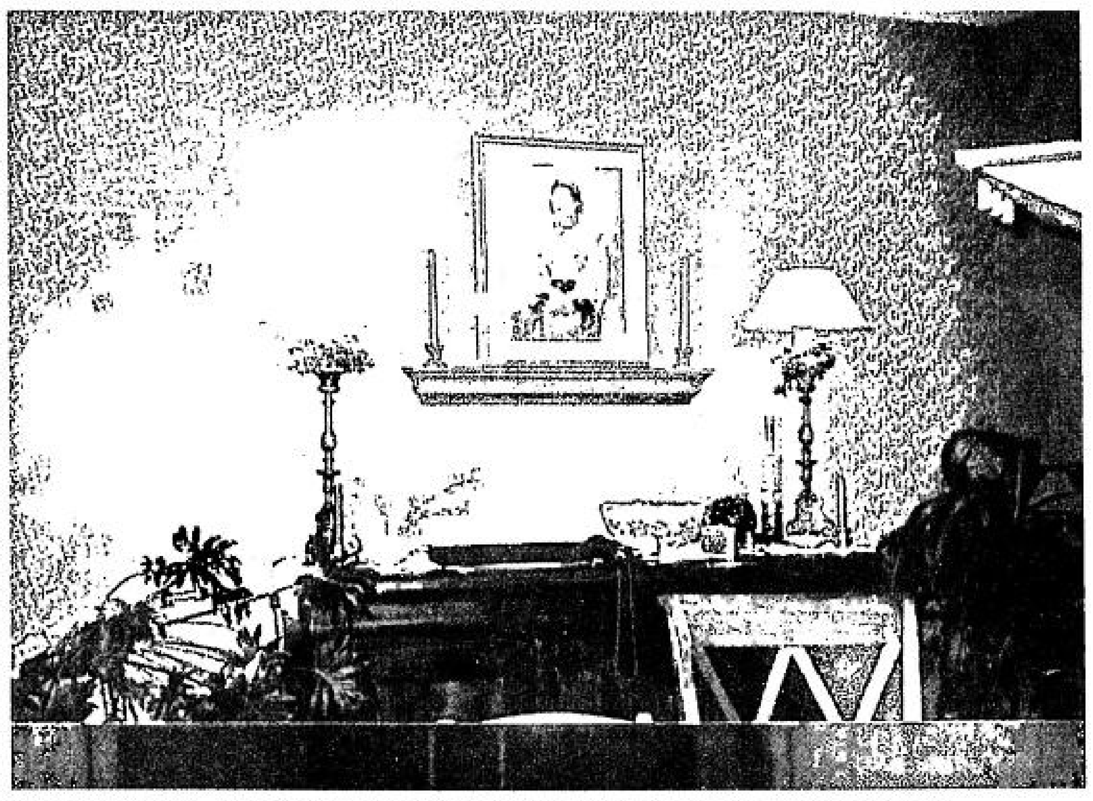
The translucence of glass bowls complements the fine lines of native Philippine baskets. American pine and mahogany merge with hardwood chests, aromatic Indian wood and even an Oriental screen. Amid scented candles and flower sprays are books that showcase the best of Philippine culture, all laid out on a coffee table. The colors are neutral—layers of green, taupe and beige.

As in an Asian pot of herbs and spices, there is an assortment of accents, a gathering of materials and textures. But the sense of orderliness and the pristine arrangement connote upscale American lifestyle in which

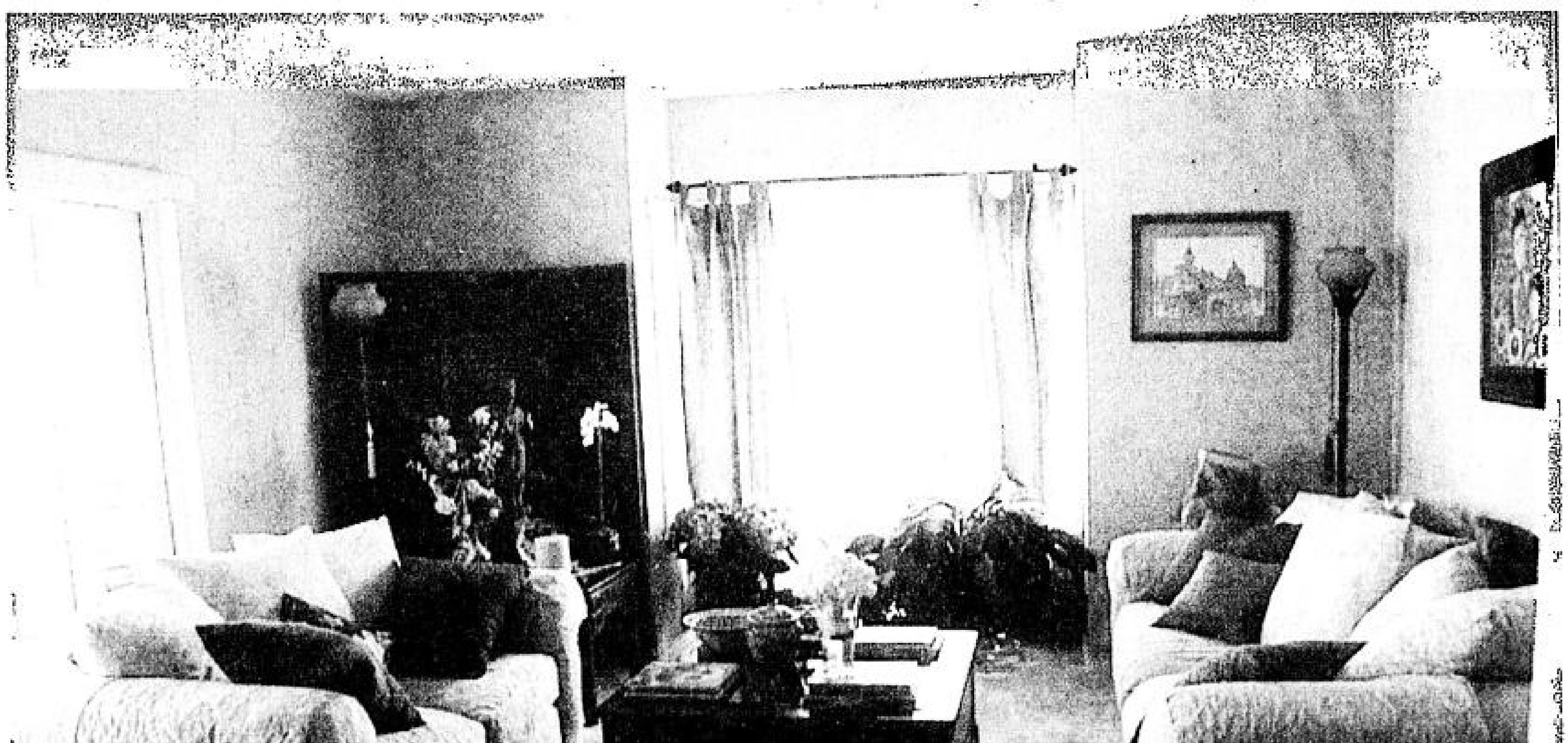
BLISSFUL/p.D3



COMFORTABLE fluffy throw pillows and thick cushioned sofas are upholstered in cotton and silk. A louvered screen is backdrop for a Buddha beside porcelain and candle displays. Oriental bowls and glass vases hold an assortment of bouquets fresh from the wedding a few days before. Books on Philippine culture and travel spots are on top of a mahogany coffee table.



PHILIPPINE art, mounted on wooden moldings and traceries, graces the wall.



COLORS and textures adapt to the couple's combined preferences with Asian rhythm and flavor conveyed by paintings and accents graciously adorning the home.

Women researchers develop environment-friendly technologies

Last of two parts

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THE WOMEN featured in this two-part series are 10 of a total 100 listed by Leonarda Navato Camacho in her book, "100 Taon: 100 Filipina sa Digmaan at sa Kapayapaan (100 Years: 100 Filipinas in War and in Peace)." The list included women who not only supported their menfolk during war, heroically facing torture, even death in the process, but also led them into battle; women doctors, civic leaders who established puericulture centers for the sick and needy; women who aimed to carry out and preserve the country's artistic and cultural traditions. There were environmentalists among them as well, women who studied and researched new uses for fruits and vegetables and other plants for food and medicine, and/or successfully experimented on products and machines to make life easy and safe.

There are the plain environmentalists concerned with saving the forests by the simple expediency of planting trees, and those who advocate sustainable agriculture by putting up model farms. To conclude this series we feature the remaining five environmentalists.

Dr. Victoria Masulungan, a pharmacist, pharmaceutical chemist, bacteriologist and registered medical technician, researched on medicinal plants with curative effects on such diseases as cancer and tuberculosis, and plants with antibacterial substances like the leaves of the acacia.

Maria Ylagan Orosa, pharmaceutical chemist, worked at the Bureau of Science (precursor of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute) where she established the Food Preservation Division. She experimented on different ways to use fruits and vegetables that grew in abundance all over the country, even in backyards. She showed how to make jelly from guava, *santol*, mango and seaweed; soy sauce from soybeans and copra; pickles from cucumber and tomatoes; flour from green plantains (*saba*) and raw cassava; ketchup from mango, tomatoes and bananas; wine from cashew and guavas; vinegar from pineapple; and cheese, flour, vinegar, butter and candy from *buko* (young coconut). She also taught how to use glazed and sweetened fruits for fruitcake, *calamansi* as substitute for soft drinks. And most useful during World War II was her Orosa stove, a clay pot that could be set on a *kalan* and heated with coal.

Portia Nayve Rossi is an agriculturist applying environment-friendly and sustainable methods. She set up a model farm in her hometown, Pili, in Camarines Sur where she practiced organic farming and raised animals without stressing them and without using hormones or chemicals on them.

She shared these methods at the best universities in the region, and even founded the Institute for Sustainable Rural Development Foundation. She has written books on her researches and farming experiences, one of them the 10-volume "Alternative Crops for Alternative Agriculture for the Tropics and Sub-Tropics."

Like many of her colleagues in medicinal plant research, **Erlinda Sanqui** strives to find new medicinal uses for herbals and plants. Among her "inventions" in this field are teas made from *banaba*, *lagundi*, mango, avocado, ginger and *sambong*. She shared these findings by setting up a company in 1960 for the manufacture of such teas and, in the process, popularizing the now-famous *pito-pito* tea, consisting of seven kinds of herbs and leaves.

ERLINDA Sanqui

PORTIA Nayve Rossi

Some women environmentalists want to save the forests simply by planting trees, while others advocate sustainable agriculture by putting up model farms

Helen Yap, the 10th and last environmentalist in Camacho's list, is a marine biologist who has set her sights on developing ways to protect marine life in coral reefs and mangroves. She has researched on integrated coastal management; marine and environmental pollution; effect of geothermal discharges on the sea; oil pollution of the sea; effect on corals of indiscriminate fishing methods, all with the aim of enriching the seas with marine life once again. Other countries are also benefiting from her researches today.

Fashion gala in London

FILIPINO designers Richard Papa, Edgar Madamba, Lito Perez and Edgar San Diego recently held a fashion in London. Their collections were presented in a tea show for the Overseas Women's Club at the Grand Imperial hotel, Lolline Leed. Some 200 guests, mostly wives of diplomats, socialites and aristocrats attended the affair. Viscount David Linley was the guest of honor.

MEMBERS of the Overseas Women's Club of London wearing the creations of Filipino designers.

RICHARD Papa, Edgar San Diego, Edgar Madamba, Viscount David Linley, Lito Perez and Mimi Vasquez

Blissful in Seattle

THE RICH tones of hardwood provide a contrast to the neutral palette of the walls and flooring, displaying a genuine blend of East and West. Baskets and lacquered bowls, along with celadon and fine paintings from the Philippines, combine Asian charm with American style.

(From page D2)

ease and facility are the norm (the better for the dwellers to do the cleaning and dusting themselves).

Right place

Paul installed the wallpaper himself as well as the cornices and wooden moldings surrounding the doors. The convenient do-it-yourself wood trims and other easy-to-install gadgets have already found their way in new hardware stores and home depots now sprouting in Metro Manila. Paul also painted the house.

The location of the new home is essential to the couple's priorities and long-term plans. The area of Magnolia in Seattle is good for starting a family. It is an excellent real estate investment.

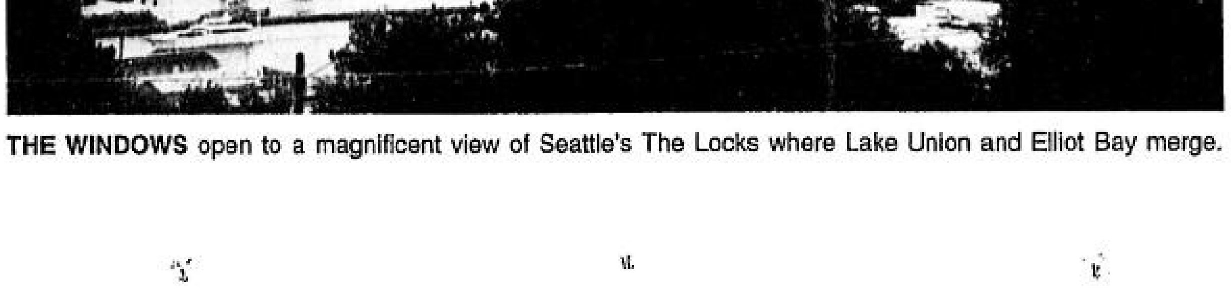
Paul and Rina enjoy their balcony and window view of picture-perfect scenery, like The Locks, a famous sight in Seattle. Two bodies of water at different levels are joined together in The Locks—Lake Union and Elliot Bay.

In Magnolia, a quiet neighborhood thrives amid rows of flowering plants and small front gardens decked in multitiered blooms of perennials and hydrangea. Paul himself tends to the plants, which flower almost all year round as the cool weather supports the bursts of reds, pinks and violets that are artfully arranged among ferns and stones.

The couple has strategically set anchor pieces to mark spaces—an artful and massive cabinet, a richly detailed chest, a mirrored armoire revealing a showcase inside. The pieces establish consistency and coherence of character. In one fluid display, the blend of the best from the East and the West is highlighted.

E-mail the author at cnolido@aimonline.org

Paul and Rina Nutter's house in Washington State is an interracial marriage of Eastern and Western design motifs



THE WINDOWS open to a magnificent view of Seattle's The Locks where Lake Union and Elliot Bay merge.

MTV Asia Awards 2002
Categories & Nominees

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST- Philippines
(Keyword: MUSICARTIST)
A - Freestyle
B - Gary Valenciano
C - Lea Salonga
D - Martin Nievera
E - Regine Velasquez

FAVORITE MALE ARTIST
(Keyword:MALEARTIST)
A - Eminem
B - Ricky Martin
C - Robbie Willams
D - Ronan Keating
E - Shaggy

FAVORITE FEMALE ARTIST
(Keyword: FEMALEARTIST)
A - Britney Spears
B - Christina Aguilera
C - Jennifer Lopez
D - Madonna
E - Mariah Carey

FAVORITE POP ACT
(Keyword: POPACT)
A - Backstreet Boys
B - Destiny's Child
C - M2M
D - N'Sync
E - Westlife

FAVORITE ROCK ACT
(Keyword: ROCKACT)
A - Bon Jovi
B - Coldplay
C - Limp Bizkit
D - Linkin Park
E - U2

FAVORITE VIDEO
(Keyword: VIDEO)
A - The Call (Backstreet Boys)
B - Weapon of Choice (Fatboy Slim)
C - 19-2000 (Gorillaz)
D - POP (N'Sync)
E - Lady Marmalade (Pink, Christina Aguilera, Mya, Lil' Kim)

FAVORITE BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST (Keyword: BREAKTHROUGH)
A - Coldplay
B - Gorillaz
C - Nelly Furtado
D - Alicia Keys
E - Linkin Park

FAVORITE FILM
(Keyword: FILM)
A - Charlie's Angels
B - Crouching Tiger,Hidden Dragon
C - Rush Hour 2
D - Pearl Harbor
E - Shrek
F - The Mummy Returns

FAVORITE FASHION DESIGNER
(Keyword: FASHION)
A - Donatella Versace (Versace)
B - John Galliano (Christian Dior)
C - Marc Jacobs (Louis Vuitton/ Marc Jacobs)
D - Miuccia Prada (Prada/Miu Miu)
E - Stella McCartney
F - Tom Ford (Gucci/ YSL)

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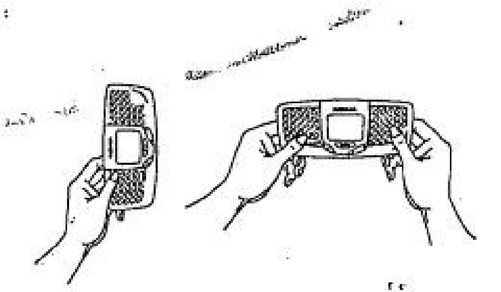

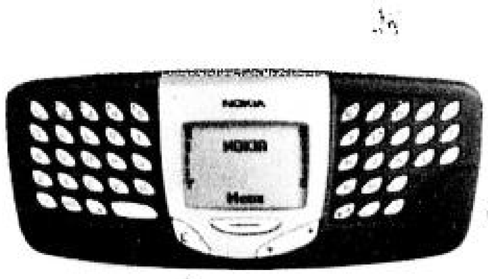

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